

Yellow guava

Psidium guajava



Yellow guava is native to tropical America. It has become locally naturalised in bushland and coastal areas in Queensland. Yellow guava is a serious invasive plant in six other countries, being described as the third most prominent invasive alien woody plant along watercourses in coastal belts in South Africa.

Yellow guava is known to form dense stands, and its seeds are distributed by birds, mammals, livestock and people.

The fruit has traditionally been used for juices and jams and is still used commercially. Adding to its undesirable status, the yellow guava is host to the papaya fruit fly in north Queensland. This makes the removal and control of yellow guava a high priority.



**Queensland
Government**

Legal requirements

Yellow guava is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on yellow guava. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Yellow guava is a small tree that grows up to 10 m high. It has spreading branches and characteristic copper coloured bark that flakes away to reveal the pale green layer beneath. The wide green leaves are oblong in shape, leathery, aromatic when crushed and downy on the underside. Leaf dimensions are 7–15 cm long and 3–5 cm wide. The flowers are creamy white and shed their petals to leave a tuft of yellow-tipped stamens. The rounded fruits have yellow skins when ripe, pinkish red flesh, and can be between 5–10 cm long. Flowering occurs from September to February.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of yellow guava

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, fence lines, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	2 L per 60 L diesel	Basal bark Cut stems will reshoot, and regrowth may occur from the roots of the main tree Guava can resucker away from the parent plant

Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

Control

Control of guavas can be difficult. Cut stems will re-shoot, and guavas can sucker from their roots.

More information

More information is available from your local government office or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

