

# Mysore thorn

*Caesalpinia decapetalia*



Native to India and South-East Asia, the South-East Asian mysore thorn can invade forest margins and gaps, roadsides and watercourses to form impenetrable thickets.

Its trailing branches root where they touch the ground, but the main cause of its spread is when humans, water and animals disperse the large seeds.

## Legal requirements

Mysore thorn 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 mysore thorn. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland**  
Government

## Description

Mysore thorn is a robust, thorny evergreen shrub growing up to 4 m high or climbing up to 20 m high, often forming dense thickets.

The bark is rough at the base of the plant and smoother, cream-green above. Stems are prickly and densely covered with tiny, golden hairs. It has dark-green leaves that are paler beneath, bipinnate and up to 300 mm long. Leaflets are 7–18 mm long and arranged in pairs along a prickly rachis. Flowers are white to pale yellow in elongated, erect clusters 10–35 cm long. Brown woody pods are flattened, unsegmented, smooth and have a prominent thorn-like beak.

## Control

### Manual control

Hand-pull or uproot seedlings and saplings. If larger plants are slashed or cut down, they readily coppice, so either dig up the entire rootstock or apply a suitable herbicide to regrowth when it is actively growing.

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of mysore thorn**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate)	10 g/100 L water plus wetting agent	Spot spray Always and a wetting agent
	Aminopyralid 375 g/kg + metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg (Stinger)	20 g/100 L water plus wetting agent	
			20 g/10 L water plus Pulse penetrant (20 mL/10 L)

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

## Herbicide control

See Table 1 for treatment options.

## Follow-up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any seedlings or regrowth.

## More information

More information is available from your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

