

Mimosa bush

Acacia farnesiana



Mimosa bush can spread readily and grow quickly. As it often forms thorny thickets, it can be a considerable nuisance during mustering and can also hinder stock access to water.

Mimosa bush does offer shade in open downs country and can be useful as a supplement to grass during the dry season. It may therefore be a useful plant in some areas if its spread can be controlled to prevent thicket formation. The maintenance of healthy pasture competition is the best mechanism to achieve this.

Legal requirements

Mimosa bush 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 mimosa bush. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland
Government**

Description

Mimosa bush is a rounded shrub or small tree generally growing up to 3 m high and occasionally up to 5 m high. It often forms thorny thickets and is nearly always multi-stemmed. The branches grow in a zigzag shape and are usually a grey-brown colour with prominent white spots.

Leaves are a ferny type, with 1–6 pairs of leaf ‘branches’ each with 5–20 pairs of narrow, rounded leaflets 4–8 mm long. Leaves are sometimes more of a yellowish green than a pure green. Thorns are found in pairs at the base of each leaf and can grow up to 10 cm long.

Golden yellow to orange-ish flowers are ball-shaped, about 1 cm wide, and grow on stalks (usually two) at the base of each leaf. Flowers develop into clusters of cigar-shaped pods, slightly curved and up to 6 cm long. The pods are dark brown or black and woody at maturity, with seeds embedded in the pith. Pods do not split open and tend to stay on the plant for a length of time.

Mimosa bush can be confused with the listed invasive plants mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) and prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*), particularly when young (see the ‘identification of prickly bushes’ fact sheet from biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Distribution

Mimosa bush, a native of central and south America, is naturalised in Australia. Mimosa bush is widespread in Queensland and found in all but the wettest and driest parts of the State. Seeds sprout readily and plants grow rapidly. Mimosa bush does well in dry localities and on loamy or sandy soils, forming thickets along watercourses. Mimosa bush withstands drought well, is readily eaten by stock, and has good regrowth after grazing.

Mimosa bush is not a long-lived plant. It is readily attacked by many native insects and is prone to dieback on an irregular basis.

Control

Basal bark spray

For stems up to 15 cm in diameter, carefully spray completely around the base of the plant to a height of 30 cm above ground level. Thoroughly spray into all crevices. Larger trees may be controlled by spraying to a greater height of up to 100 cm above ground level.

The best time for treatment is during autumn when plants are actively growing and soil moisture is good.

Cut stump treatment

At any time of year, cut stems off horizontally as close to the ground as possible. Immediately (within 15 seconds) swab the cut surface with a herbicide mixture.

Bore drains

Channels and drains must be empty of water. Spray a one metre strip into the mud in the channel or drain. Wait at least three days for diuron to bond to the mud before slowly allowing water in again. Water must not be used in a domestic water supply or supplied to desirable shade trees for 7–14 days after re-opening the drain.

More information

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



Table 1. Herbicides for the control of mimosa bush

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Acclaim, Fluroxypyr 200)	Refer to the product label for the correct rate of use	Basal bark/cut stump Plants up to 5 cm basal diameter Ensure all stems on multi-stemmed plants are treated
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (e.g. Starane Advanced, Fluroken 333)		
	Fluroxypyr 400 g/L (e.g. Comet 400, Fluroxypyr 400)		
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®)	1 L/60 L diesel	Basal bark Plants up to 5 cm basal diameter Cut stump Plants up to and in excess of basal bark diameter
Pastures, roadsides and rights-of-way	Tebuthiuron 200 g/kg (e.g. Tebultan 200GR herbicide®, Graslan herbicide®, etc) (PERMIT 13891 expires 31 March 2023)	2.0 g/m ² or 20 kg/ha	Soil application Application just prior to rainfall gives best results Avoid damage to off target species – refer to herbicide label and permit for product restraints and critical comments
Powerline areas, rights-of-way and grassland pasture	Clopyralid present as the triisopropanol amine 500g/L (e.g. Lontrel herbicide®, Nufarm Archer®, Farnoz Victory herbicide®) (PERMIT 14929 (expires 30 September 2029)	500 mL of product per 100 L of water (plus non-ionic surfactant at 0.1%)	High volume spray Spray when plants are actively growing and in full leaf Full covering of foliage with spray is essential Withholding period: do not graze treated areas, or cut for stock feed, for seven days after application Consult both permit and label for critical comments
Bore drains	Diuron 500 g/L (e.g. Diuron 500SC) Diuron 900 g/kg (e.g. Diuron 900 WG)	Refer to the product label for the correct rate of use	Do not apply between 1 December and 30 March each year Do not apply more than once per calendar year Do not open drains for 72 hours following treatment Do not apply if heavy rains are predicted within three days of application Application should be limited to 1 m strips along the sides of bore drains Withholding period – do not allow animals to drink water from treated bore drains for three days, before slaughter for human consumption Read the label carefully

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

