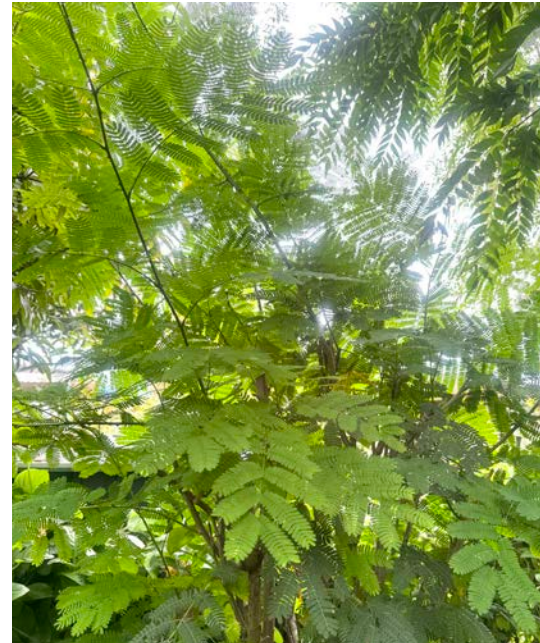


Soap pod wattle

Prohibited invasive plant

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to deal with including keep, cultivate, transport or sell soap pod wattle in Queensland.
- Forms dense infestations that are virtually impenetrable.
- Is covered in thorns posing a risk to people, livestock and wildlife.
- Prefers disturbed habitats, generally near rainforest.
- Can invade pastures and native vegetation.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

Soap pod wattle (*Senegalia rugata*) is found throughout south-east Asia. The branches are covered in short, curved spines and leaves are bipinnate. The flowers are pink and ball shaped. It can grow as an erect shrub or as a scrambling vine with stems growing up to 30 m long.

Soap pod wattle gets its name from its use as a cleanser, as the seeds contain saponins. The leaves are also used in cooking. Soap pod wattle is also known by many different common and local names that includes shikakai.

Biosecurity risk

Soap pod wattle is a prohibited invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Soap pod wattle can invade disturbed areas including riverbanks, forest margins and forest gaps. It forms prickly thickets, which can limit movement of people and animals. The impenetrable thickets can also impede control efforts.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen soap pod wattle, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. You must take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent soap pod wattle from spreading.

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.



Similar looking species to soap pod wattle

Cha-om (*Senegalia insuavis*)

- Is prohibited under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Sightings must be reported without delay.
- Has the same branches covered in short, curved spines as soap pod wattle.
- Is a shrub up to 5 m high that has a tendency to climb like a vine among other vegetation.
- The leaves are bipinnate and it has scattered prickles along its branchlets and stems.
- It has yellow-cream flowers, flattened seed pods and the ability to form dense, thorny thickets.

Key feature different to soap pod wattle

Cha-om leaflets are much smaller and have a distinctive odour.



Climbing wattle (*Senegalia albizioides*)

- Is native to Northern Australia.
- A climbing vine with stems up to 12 cm in diameter.
- Flower buds are red, which open into spherical flowers, cream to yellow in colour.
- Fruits are flattened, about 4.5–7 x 1.5–2 cm.
- Each fruit has 5–10 seed, each seed about 10–11 x 6–7 mm.

Key feature different to soap pod wattle

Has scattered prickles on branchlets.



Leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*)

- Is an environmental weed.
- A shrub or small tree up to about 6 m high.
- Leaves are about 25 cm long and bipinnate, with dull, greyish-green leaflets.
- Flowers are much larger; flower heads are spherical and creamy yellow in colour on short stalks about 5 cm long.
- Flattened pods up to 15 cm long occur in dense clusters, each pod containing around 20 glossy brown, flat seeds that scatter when ripe.

Key feature different to soap pod wattle

Leucaena branches don't have thorns.



Poinciana (*Delonix regia*)

- Is a common ornamental tree.
- A large tree, native to Madagascar, up to 10 m high that is commonly planted in parks and on nature strips.

Key feature different to soap pod wattle

Poincianas grow into a large tree, has red flowers and seed pods are up to 60 cm long. Poinciana branches don't have thorns.



Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*)

- Is a common ornamental tree.
- A large tree native to South America, up to 20 m high that is planted in gardens as an ornamental tree.

Key feature different to soap pod wattle

Jacarandas grow into a large tree, has blue flowers and has woody seed pods about 5 cm in diameter. Jacaranda branches don't have thorns.

