

Invasive plants and animals

Blue morning glory

Ipomoea indica



The problem

The thick, smothering growth of this weed is a common sight on many rural roadsides and forest edges. Blue morning glory grows as a dense ground cover in the absence of supporting structure, but can climb high into the canopy with ease. Twining stems are quick to choke adjacent seedlings, and more established neighbours are quickly smothered. This plant produces new roots from nodes that contact the soil. Propagation is also possible from broken plant pieces due to damage of the parent plant.

Description

Blue morning glory is a vigorous, perennial climber providing a significant shading hazard to other species. The numerous leaves are broadly heart-shaped, sometimes with 3–5 lobes. The large, funnel-shaped flowers are blue-mauve in colour, growing in groups of 3–12. They are quite striking in appearance and are the common eye-catching feature of the species. The petals are fused together, and the short-lived flowers are readily replaced as they perish.

Management strategies

This weed can be manually removed by pulling up the roots and mulching heavily to discourage regrowth.

Declaration details

Blue morning glory is a not declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF BLUE MORNING GLORY

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spray	dicamba (500 g/L)	200 mL on mature to 1 L on regrowth per 100 L water or 2 L/ha	PERMIT 7485	
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (625 g/L)	3 mL per 1 L water or 3 L/ha	PERMIT 7485	Apply to young, actively growing weeds, ensuring thorough coverage.
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	5 mL per 1 L water or 4 L/ha	PERMIT 7485	
Spot spray	MCPA (500 g/L)	500 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent	PERMIT 7485	
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 part herbicide to 2 parts water (e.g. 10 mL in 20 mL water)	PERMIT 7485	Apply in spring to summer. Apply second application if necessary.

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

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.

Fact sheets are available from DPI&F service centres and the DPI&F Information Centre phone (13 25 23). Check our web site <www.dpi.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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