

Invasive plants and animals

Easter cassia

Senna pendula var. *glabrata*



The problem

Easter cassia is a successful invader of disturbed or modified sites. It has been observed to establish in sunny openings and then scramble over the adjacent vegetation, often into the canopy layer of even rain forest. This weed is very common in Brisbane gardens and is naturalised in highly disturbed urban bushland and farmland in many areas of south east Queensland and northern New South Wales. It is frequently seen along roadsides and on the banks of waterways.

Description

This weed grows as a shrub, up to about 5 m tall. Stems often grow in a zigzag pattern and may be sparsely hairy. Leaves grow in alternate formation, and are pinnate with 3-6 pairs of leaflets. The top side of the leaf stalk has a gland between the lowermost leaflets. Around Easter it produces masses of bright yellow flowers. Flowering is followed by hundreds of brown, slender seed pods up to 12 cm long and each containing 5-10 seeds.

Management strategies

Small individual plants can be removed by hand pulling, particularly in moist soil. Take care to remove the roots and consider applying mulch to discourage regrowth. Larger individuals may be dug out with a mattock or similar garden tool. Once again, the whole crown must be removed for the achievement of long term control. This approach may be deemed too labour intensive for more established individual plants or for larger infestations.

This plant can be controlled with herbicides.

Declaration details

Easter cassia is not a 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 EASTER CASSIA

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Product undiluted	PERMIT 7485	Paint stump immediately after cutting
Basal bark spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	35 mL per 1 L diesel or kerosene	PERMIT 7485	

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.