

Invasive plants and animals

Siratro

Macroptilium atropurpureum



The problem

Siratro is a legume which is native to tropical America, and widely used in coastal eastern Queensland and coastal New South Wales as a pasture plant. It is commonly seen growing on roadsides, in disturbed sites and in areas not grazed by livestock. As an environmental weed, siratro can form dense infestations along forest edges, and will grow over native shrubs, grasses or young trees, effectively smothering them. More recently it is common in vegetation around waterways and in coastal sand dune vegetation. Siratro is also a problem in revegetation sites where it smothers young trees and shrubs before they become established. Siratro spreads vegetatively and via seeds.

Description

Siratro is a creeping or climbing legume, with bright green leaves between 2–7 cm long, with each leaf having three broad leaflets. The two lower leaflets will often have an extra rounded lobe, and the leaves have silky hairs on their underside. 'Sweet pea-like' dark red-purple flowers are borne on long spikes most of the year. After flowering, narrow pods 5–10 cm long appear.

Management strategies

Siratro can be hand pulled, chipped or mowed. Removing the whole crown by grubbing is the most effective manual/mechanical control method. Tangled growth may need to be cleared using a brush cutter. Cannot tolerate grazing.

Further information

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

Declaration details

Siratro 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.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF SIRATRO

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spraying	triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	350 mL per 100 L water	PERMIT 7485 A DPI permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram.	
Foliar spray	glufosinate ammonia (200 g/L)	1–3 L per ha	Registered	Spray when actively growing. Treatments may need to be repeated if regrowth occurs.
Handgun	glufosinate ammonia (200 g/L)	100–300 mL per 100 L	Registered	Spray when actively growing. Treatments may need to be repeated if regrowth occurs.
Knapsack	glufosinate ammonia (200 g/L)	15–45 mL per 15 L	Registered	Spray when actively growing. Treatments may need to be repeated if regrowth occurs.

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.