

Siratro

Macroptilium atropurpureum



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. Siratro 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.

Legal requirements

Siratro 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 steps to minimise the 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 certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



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.

Herbicide control

Two herbicides are currently registered for the control of siratro in non-crop situations in Queensland. Glufosinate ammonium is non-selective and needs to be used with care.

See Table 1 for the herbicide options for the control of siratro.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of siratro

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Pastures and non-agricultural land	2,4-D amine 625 g/L (e.g Ken-Amine 625) And other formulations	1.8 L/ha 180 mL/150 L/1000 m ² For other formulations refer to label	Foliar spray
Commercial and industrial areas, forest plantations, rights-of-way and other non-agricultural areas	Glufosinate-ammonium 200 g/L (e.g. Basta)	1–3 L/ha 300 mL/100 L water 75 mL/15 L knapsack	Foliar spray (boom, hand gun or knapsack)

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



This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at biosecurity.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet 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 use 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, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.