Karroo thorn
Prohibited invasive plant
Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23

- It is a shrub or tree up to 15 m tall with long, white paired thorns.
- It has yellow ball-shaped flowers in clusters.
- Can replace pastures, invade grasslands and can form impenetrable thickets that can harm people and livestock.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

Karroo thorn (*Vachellia karroo*) is a shrub or tree, up to 15 m tall. The bark is rough and dark red-brown to black. Leaves are light green and fern-like, up to 12 cm long and about 5 cm wide, comprising of 8–20 pairs of small oblong leaflets. The seed pods are up to 16 cm long and 1 cm wide, sickle-shaped, woody and slightly constricted between the seeds. Karroo thorn is usually evergreen but loses its leaves in droughts and in cold and dry areas.

Karroo thorn reproduces by seed—large trees produce up to 19 000 seeds per year giving the plant a persistent seed bank. Seeds are dispersed by water or animal droppings and can lie in the soil for seven years and still germinate. Germination is improved when the hard outer casing of the seed is disturbed—by gradual weathering over time or by passing through the digestive system of animal.

Biosecurity risk

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

It could become a serious invasive plant in Queensland, with the potential to reduce agricultural productivity by suppressing the growth of grasses. It can also prevent stock movement and can restrict watering.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen karroo thorn, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent karroo thorn from spreading.

More information

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

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