

100+ Invasive weeds of Ipswich

A guide for landholders



Invasive Weeds of Ipswich

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Acknowledgement of Country

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands and waters we share. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

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With contributions by council officers in Natural Environment and Land Management, Natural Areas, Compliance and Nursery

Disclaimer: The material in this book is for general education and information and is intended as a guide only.

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
How weeds spread.....	5
Online resources	5
Control methods.....	6
Council action and support.....	9

CATEGORIES

HERBS		10
GRASSES		20
SHRUBS		26
TREES		34
VINES AND CREEPERS		44
WATER		56
CACTI AND SUCCULENTS		60

INTRODUCTION

The management of invasive plants and animals has evolved with new technologies, methodologies, strategic planning philosophies and legislation.

Biosecurity Act 2014

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) provides a state-wide framework on how to manage different threats, including pests, diseases and contaminants.

The Act supports a shared management approach with a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) placed on landholders.

This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that:

- are under their control, and
- they know about or should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event' and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

All invasive plants are captured under the GBO. Additionally, the Act has listed numerous invasive plants as prohibited or restricted matter and these species have further legislative requirements.

Some species in this book are Category 3 Restricted Matter. The plant must not be distributed – whether as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment – unless authorised in regulation or under a permit.

Plants listed as restricted matter are having significant adverse impacts in Queensland. Managing them, and preventing their spread, protects parts of the state without infestations.

City of Ipswich Biosecurity Plan

This plan prioritises invasive species management based on inherent risk. Four management strategies are listed which provide residents with guidance on how to discharge their GBO and collectively work to lessen the impacts of invasive species in the Ipswich local government area:











Find the Ipswich Biosecurity Plan at [ipswich.qld.gov.au](https://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au)

HOW WEEDS SPREAD



There are many ways weeds spread including:

 Wind	Particularly small seeds with 'wings' or 'parachutes'.
 Water	Seeds or plant matter may float or be dispersed in flood or storm events.
 Birds  Insects  Animals (general)	Fruit and seeds are spread after being eaten, or attached to fur and feathers.
 Inappropriate disposal of green waste	Seeds or plant matter dumped in natural areas may spread.
 Vehicles/machinery  Clothing	Seeds and plant matter may be carried into different areas through human movements.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Biosecurity Queensland**
Information about restricted, prohibited and other invasive plants
▶ [Biosecurity.qld.gov.au](https://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)
- **Brisbane City Council**
Weed identification tool for species across the Greater Brisbane area
▶ [Weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au](https://www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)
- **Queensland Herbarium**
Join the community-based Weed Spotters Network
▶ [Qld.gov.au/herbarium](https://www.qld.gov.au/herbarium)
- **Weeds Australia**
knowledge to help make informed decisions about managing invasive weeds
▶ [Weeds.org.au](https://www.weeds.org.au)

CONTROL METHODS

There are many methods used to control weed infestations. Often, using one method alone is not enough to control serious weeds. Integrated weed management is the use of several methods in order to be more successful at controlling infestations.

This information is intended as a general guide only. Please seek further advice for control methods suitable to your requirements.

Basal bark

This method involves mixing an oil-soluble herbicide in diesel and spraying the full circumference of the trunk or stem of the weed. This is suitable for thin-barked woody plants, undesired trees, saplings, regrowth and multi-stemmed shrubs and trees. Basal barking will usually destroy weeds if the bark is not wet or too thick for the diesel to penetrate.

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Biocontrol

This involves the use of insects or pathogens (diseases) that affect the health of weeds. Usually, these biocontrol agents are from the same country of origin as the weed species. Landholders wishing to source biological control agents can contact a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries office or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

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Complete removal

Removing the entire plant, including roots, from the soil is useful for small-scale infestations. It is not appropriate for all weed species, such as those with underground bulbs. It is best to hand-pull weeds after rain when soil is moist. Sturdy gloves should be worn to avoid prickles, blisters or sap burns. Hand tools can be used to remove underground parts of weeds that may reshoot. In some cases, it is necessary to dig out the crown of the plant. This requires the growing part of the plant to be cut beneath the ground using a knife or other tool.

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Cut stump

This involves cutting off the weed completely at its base (no higher than 15cm from the ground) using a chainsaw, axe, brushcutter or other tool. A herbicide solution is sprayed or painted onto the exposed surface. It is essential the herbicide is applied as soon as the trunk or stem is cut. A delay of more than 15 seconds for water-based herbicides and one minute for diesel-soluble herbicides will give poor results.

Fire

Some weeds will be destroyed or suppressed by fire. Fire can also be used to get access to the weed. Be aware that some weeds benefit from fire. Using fire when seeds are developing or ripening can prevent the release of seeds but the timing of the burn is critical. This is most effective with annual weeds that depend on each season's crop. Using fire requires detailed planning. Permits and approvals must be obtained.

Foliar spray

Diluted herbicide is sprayed over the foliage to the point of run-off (until every leaf is wet but not dripping). This is most suited to shrubs, grasses and dense vines less than 6m high. While this method's advantages include speed and economy, the disadvantages include the potential for spray drift and off-target damage. Spraying can be done a number of ways, including using a boom spray from a tractor, a hose and handgun from a herbicide tank, a backpack spray unit and with splatter guns.

Grazing

Introducing grazing animals such as goats, cattle, sheep, llamas and alpacas can minimise weed biomass and increase the effectiveness of weed management.

Slashing and mowing

Using a tractor slasher or ride on mower can be effective where other favourable species will outgrow the slashed weeds. Some control contractors apply steam after weeds have been slashed.



Stem injection

This involves drilling or cutting through bark into the sapwood tissue of woody plants and trees to transport the herbicide throughout the plant. It is essential to apply the herbicide immediately (within 15 seconds of drilling or cutting) as this method relies on the active uptake and growth of the weed to move the herbicide through its tissue.

Stem scrape

This is used for weeds and vines with aerial tubers. Use a sharp knife to scrape a very thin layer of bark from a 10cm section of stem. Apply herbicide immediately to the exposed green tissue.

Wick wipe

This method consists of soaking a wick or rope in herbicide from a reservoir attached to a handle, or assisted with 12-volt pump equipment. The wetted wick is used to brush or wipe herbicide over the plant.

Other

Many other practices assist in weed control. This can include mulching, solarisation, stale seed bedding, soil improvement, aeration, tilling and using other species to outcompete weeds.



COUNCIL ACTION AND SUPPORT

Ipswich City Council invests staff and budget resources each year controlling weeds in public parks, bushland and Enviroplan conservation estates and reserves.

Support is also offered to landholders and the community in removing invasive weeds and restoring native vegetation.

Landholder Conservation Partnerships Program

This program assists Ipswich landholders to manage and protect ecosystems on their properties. Partnerships vary from suburban backyards, to large properties within key conservation areas.

Search for 'Landholder Conservation' at ipswich.qld.gov.au

Bushcare

Volunteers and council work together to restore key sites on public land with monthly working bees and community plantings.

To find a site near you visit ipswich.qld.gov.au/volunteering

Free plant program

Council's Nursery offers 6 free native plants each year to Ipswich residents on presentation of a rates notice. Landholder Partnerships Program members also receive additional free plants each year.

See ipswich.qld.gov.au/freeplants





Ageratina adenophora

Crofton weed

Form: Evergreen perennial to 2m high

Leaves: Dark green, trowel shaped, serrated to 8cm

Flowers: White, tubular to 3.5mm in dense clusters, or 50–70 florets, in spring

Seed: Dark brown to black, 2mm, with a white feathery ‘parachute’

Origin: Mexico

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, slashing and mowing

Comments: Prefers shaded wetter areas. Grows in large dense clumps. An aggressive weed in pastures and poisonous to horses.

Spread by:     



Ageratum

houstonianum

Blue billygoat weed

Form: Biennial, to 1m

Leaves: Triangular to egg-shaped, hairy, to 7cm

Flowers: Lavender, blue, pink or purplish, dense clusters of 8mm heads, in summer–autumn

Seeds: Brown to black, 2mm

Origin: Mexico, Central America, Caribbean

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Invades bushland and displaces indigenous plants. Particularly invasive along waterways.

Spread by:    



Ambrosia artemisiifolia

Annual ragweed

Form: Annual, upright to 2m

Leaves: Deeply divided and fern-like, hairy undersides, to 16cm

Flowers: Small, greenish, to 20cm long on upper part of plant, yellow when mature. Male flowers at top of spike, female at base

Seed: Black, top-shaped, rough, to 5mm

Origin: North America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset protection

Control: Foliar spray, slashing and mowing

Comments: Pollen contains potent allergens that can aggravate hay fever and asthma.

Spread by: 🚚 🐾 🌊



Ambrosia artemisiifolia | Annual ragweed

Asclepias curassavica

Red-head cotton bush

Form: Evergreen perennial, erect to 1.2m

Leaves: Green with white mid-ribs, triangular to lance-shaped, to 12cm

Flowers: Purple, red, yellow or orange, in terminal clusters of 6-15, to 10cm, all year

Seeds: Pods to 10cm, tan to brown seeds to 7mm with silky hairs

Origin: Tropical/sub-tropical America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap causes dermatitis. Also known as annual milkweed.

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Asclepias curassavica | Red-head cotton bush



Canna indica

Canna lily

Form: Evergreen perennial, clump forming, fleshy roots, to 2m

Leaves: Green, large, glossy to 60cm

Flowers: Red, yellow or both, 5 narrow petals in large, branched clusters, to 7cm, in spring–summer

Fruit: Green to purple, turning brown, paper capsules to 3cm, in summer–autumn

Origin: Tropical America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Replaces native aquatic and wetland species. Reproduces by seed and fleshy underground stems.

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Catharanthus roseus

Pink periwinkle

Form: Evergreen perennial to 1m. Stems contain milky sap.

Leaves: Green, glossy ovals to 9cm

Flowers: White to dark pink with a darker red centre, to 5cm, all year

Fruit: Cylindrical pod to 4cm, usually in pairs

Origin: Madagascar

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Commonly associated with sandy soils, but also grows in bushland and disturbed natural vegetation near urban areas.

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Colocasia esculenta

Taro

Form: Lily-like, to 1m

Leaves: Dark green above, light green beneath, triangular, to 40cm

Flowers: Cream (male), green (female) to 25cm in spring – late summer

Fruit: Orange/red oval berries to 5mm. Underground tuber

Origin: India, South-East Asia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Also known as elephant ear due to shape of leaf. Aggressively invades waterways and wetland excluding other vegetation. All parts of raw plant are toxic. Reproduces by seed and underground stems.

Spread by:    



Colocasia esculenta | Taro

Erigeron bonariensis

Flaxleaf fleabane

Form: Evergreen annual/ biennial, hairy stemmed to 1m

Leaves: Rosette, light green, deeply lobed, elongated, to 10cm

Flowers: Whitish, fluffy, to 12mm, all year

Seed: Straw-coloured, oblong, to 1.5mm, tufted with white hairs

Origin: Tropical America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: A common weed of roadsides, disturbed sites, parks, gardens and pastures. Also known as asthma weed. Can cause dermatitis. Glyphosate resistant.

Spread by:     



Erigeron bonariensis | Flaxleaf fleabane



Erigeron sumatrensis

Tall fleabane

Form: Erect, annual, hairy-stemmed to 2m

Leaves: Rosette, grey/green, deeply lobed, egg-shaped to elongated, to 10cm

Flowers: Greenish white to reddish brown, bell-shaped, to 1cm in summer–autumn

Seeds: Straw-coloured, papery, barbed, to 3mm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray

Comments: A common weed of roadsides, gardens and pasture.

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Gomphocarpus physocarpus

Balloon cottonbush

Form: Annual, erect, to 2m

Leaves: Pale green, narrow, tapering, to 10cm

Flowers: White, five petals, clustered, to 1cm, in summer

Fruit: Green, round, inflated, soft, bristled capsule to 8cm. Fruit contains many seeds

Seeds: Black, topped with silky tufts of white hairs, 4.5mm long

Origin: South Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Exudes a milky sap when damaged. Toxic if ingested.

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Heliotropium amplexicaule Blue heliotrope

Form: Low-growing, numerous branched stems up to 1m long, from a central root

Leaves: Dull green, elongated, hairy, wavy margins, to 80mm

Flowers: Coiled clusters with numerous tubular blue or purplish flowers with yellow throat, 8mm long, late spring – early autumn

Seed: Dark brown, wrinkled, to 6mm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray

Comments: Toxic to livestock in larger quantities.

Spread by:   



Parthenium hysterophorus Parthenium weed

Form: Annual, upright hairy stems, multi-stemmed, 1.5m tall

Leaves: Deeply divided, fern-like

Flowers: Large numbers of small white flower heads 4–5mm across at tips of branches, in spring–summer

Seeds: Five ‘winged’ seeds per flower head, each 2mm long

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Eradication

Control: Foliar spray

Comments: Can cause dermatitis and hay fever reactions. Particularly aggressive in degraded pastures.

Spread by:     





Phytolacca octandra
Inkweed

Form: Evergreen, perennial, soft, to 1.5m

Leaves: Bright green, oval, pointed tips, to 10cm

Flowers: White or pink, in dense clusters, to 5mm, in spring-summer

Fruit: Dark red, berry, to 8mm

Seed: 6-8 hard shiny seeds per berry, to 2mm

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, slashing and mowing, cut stump

Comments: All parts of plant are toxic if ingested. Red juice exudes from berries.

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Rivina humilis
Coral berry

Form: Perennial, soft, to 1m

Leaves: Bright green, soft, thin, oval to 10cm

Flowers: Whitish to pink, to 4mm, in spikes, in spring-autumn

Fruit: Bright red, glossy, berry to 3mm

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Prefers damp, shady sites and forms dense understorey thickets.

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Ruellia simplex

Mexican petunia

Form: Evergreen, perennial, multi-stemmed, upright, to 1m

Leaves: Green, narrow, to 20cm

Flowers: Lavender, blue or purplish, tubular, to 5cm, in clusters

Fruit: Green, turning brown, club-shaped, capsule to 2.5cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Similar native *Persicaria* spp. *Ludwigia octovalvis* (wild primrose). A weed of waterways and riparian areas.

Spread by:   



Senecio madagascariensis

Fireweed

Form: Evergreen, annual/ biennial/ perennial, multi-branched, to 60cm

Leaves: Bright green, fleshy, narrow, variable margins, to 7cm

Flowers: Yellow, daisy-like, 12–15 petals to 2cm, in spring–summer

Seeds: Brown, cylindrical, to 3mm, tiny hairs and silky ‘parachute’

Origin: Madagascar

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset protection

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Sap can cause dermatitis.

Spread by:    





Solidago altissima

Golden rod

Form: Evergreen, perennial, spreading/creeping or upright/rigid to 2m

Leaves: Green, lance-shaped, hairy underside, 15cm

Flowers: Yellow, conical heads, to 20cm, in summer

Origin: Eastern Canada and USA

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Slashing or mowing, fire, biological control, cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Can rapidly colonise by creeping rhizomes and self-seeding. Individual clones can reach an age of 100 years.

Spread by:   



Sphagneticola trilobata

Singapore daisy

Form: Evergreen, matt-forming groundcover or climber, to 2m

Leaves: Dark green, fleshy, up to 18cm long and 8cm wide

Flowers: Golden, daisy-like, to 2.5cm, in spring-autumn

Fruit: Dry, warty, to 5mm

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset protection

Control: Foliar spray

Comments: Similar to *Melanthera biflora* (native beach sunflower). Reproduces via stem fragments which easily take root.

Spread by:   





Xanthium occidentale

Noogoora burr

Form: Upright or spreading, annual, multi-branched hairy stems, to 1m

Leaves: Broad, toothed, rough, to 20cm

Flowers: Greenish or yellowish, clusters at tip of branches (male) and clusters at base of leaf forks (female), in summer – early autumn

Fruit: Oval burrs with hooked spines and 'beak' at tip, green to brown as they mature, becoming woody, to 20mm

Seeds: Two per burr, to 15mm

Origin: America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Often abundant after floods. Burrs contaminate wool.

Spread by:   



PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested herb alternatives.

- ✓ **Calotis cuneata** (mountain burr-daisy): A short-lived perennial daisy
- ✓ **Crinum flaccidum** (Murray lily): Perennial clump-forming with white flowers
- ✓ **Dianella brevipedunculata** (flax lily): Blue-purple flowers and purple berries
- ✓ **Glossocardia bidens** (native cobblers peg): Native alternative to the common weed
- ✓ **Gymnostachys anceps** (settler's flax): Long narrow leaves and stems to 2m
- ✓ **Ludwigia octovalvis** (native primrose): Yellow-flowered shrub
- ✓ **Ozmothamnus diosmifolius** (rice flower): Aromatic shrub with dense flowerheads
- ✓ **Persicaria decipiens** (slender knotweed): Trailing with deep pink flower spikes
- ✓ **Senecio amygdalifolius** (almond-leaved senecio): Yellow daisy-like flowers
- ✓ **Solanum stelligerum** (devil's needles): Woody shrub with star-shaped flowers and red berries



Cortaderia selloana

Pampas grass

Form: Evergreen, perennial, dense tussock, to 3m

Leaves: Blue-green to silvery-grey, long, slender, sharp edges, to 2m

Flowers: Whiteish, pink, mauve, dense plume-like 40cm head on a stem to 3m, in autumn

Seeds: Straw-coloured, oval to 3mm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, slashing and mowing

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Prefers damp places such as wetlands, swamps and stream banks. Can form dense infestations.

Spread by:    



Chloris gayana

Rhodes grass

Form: Perennial, tufting, to 1.5m

Leaves: Light green, flat or folded, to 45cm

Seed head: Finger-like, 5-15 spikes, to 12cm, in summer-autumn

Origin: Sub-Saharan Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Slashing and mowing, foliar spray

Comments: Used as a pasture grass but listed among top 50 invasive plants in South-East Queensland. Smothers native ground species and can form dense infestations.

Spread by:      





Cyperus involucratus

Umbrella sedge

Form: Perennial, upright, reed-like to 1.2m

Leaves: Light green rigid, triangular to almost cylindrical in cross-section

Flowers: Light green turning red-brown, dense, umbrella-like spikes to 10cm, up to 30 spikelets above foliage, in summer

Seeds: Yellow-brown, triangular, to 1mm

Origin: East Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Slashing and mowing, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Weed of damp sites and waterways.

Spread by:   



Cyperus involucratus | Umbrella sedge

Megathyrsus maximus

Green panic

Form: Evergreen, perennial, clumping, to 3m

Leaves: Light green, sparsely hairy, narrow, to 1m

Seed head: Green to purplish or reddish, spike, to 60cm in spring-autumn

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, slashing and mowing, grazing

Comments: Similar to Guinea grass. A very common weed, widely naturalised in northern and eastern Australia.

Spread by:     



Megathyrsus maximus | Green panic



Melinis repens Red natal grass

Form: Evergreen, annual or perennial, tussock-forming, to 1.2m

Leaves: Light green, long, narrow, to 30cm

Seed head: Red to purple, to 17cm, fluffy appearance, all year

Origin: Canary Islands, Africa, Seychelles, India, Arabian Peninsula

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Common weed of roadsides, parks. Widely naturalised in Australia.

Spread by: 🌿 🌿 🐾 🌿



Setaria sphacelata South African pigeon grass

Form: Evergreen, perennial, densely tufted, to 2m

Leaves: Green to bluish-green, smooth, elongated, to 50cm

Seed heads: Green, purple or white 'feathers', golden yellow bristles, spike-like, to 50cm, in summer-autumn

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: not listed

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Can form dense stands preventing natural plant regeneration. Can invade wetland areas and reduce access for birds.

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Sporobolus natalensis

Giant rat's tail grass

Form: Evergreen, perennial, upright, tussock-forming, to 170cm

Leaves: Green, thin, pointed, drooping, dense, hairless, to 50cm

Seed heads: Dark green or greyish-green, elongated spike to 30cm, in spring-autumn

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, slashing and mowing, wick wipe

Comments: Degrades natural areas and pasture. Difficult to distinguish from other pasture grasses and native *Sporobolous* before maturity

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Sporobolus natalensis | Giant rat's tail grass

Sporobolus pyramidalis

Parramatta grass

Form: Evergreen, perennial, upright, tussock forming, to 2m

Leaves: Green, long, narrow, hairless to 70cm

Seed heads: Dark green to grey-green, narrowly pyramid shaped, branched, 45cm, in spring-autumn

Origin: Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Arabian Peninsula

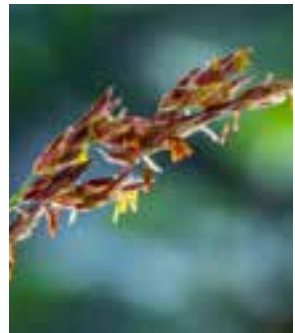
Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, slashing and mowing, wick wipe

Comments: Also known as giant rat's tail grass. When established can form a grass monoculture. Native herbivores do not eat it.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🌿 🚚



Sporobolus pyramidalis | Parramatta grass



Sorghum halepense

Johnson grass

Form: Erect, perennial, tufted, to 2m

Leaves: Smooth to 50cm with pronounced mid vein

Seed heads: Pale green-purple, loose branchlets with flower clusters, to 35cm

Origin: Africa or western Asia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, fire (with follow up herbicide), grazing, slashing and mowing

Comments: Associated with peri-urban lands. Can be a fire hazard during dry periods. Spreads mostly from seed but also from rhizomes.

Spread by: 🌾 🌿 🐾 🐾



Urochloa decumbens

Signal grass

Form: Annual to perennial grass/sedge, to 50cm

Leaves: Bright green, moderately hairy, to 2.5cm

Seed head: Bright green, lance-shaped, fleshy, to 5cm, in late spring – early summer

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: not listed

Control: Slashing and mowing, foliar spray, graze, wick wipe

Comments: Can be toxic to young livestock. Most common in coastal areas, but can vigorously colonise disturbed environments and from dense stands.

Spread by: 🌿 🐾 🌿



PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested native grass alternatives.

- ✓ ***Austrostipa ramosissima*** (bamboo grass):
Large feathery flower heads
- ✓ ***Bothriochloa bladonii*** (forest bluegrass):
Up to 1.5m, red-purple flower clusters
- ✓ ***Bothriochloa decipiens*** (pitted bluegrass):
Good grass for site rehabilitation
- ✓ ***Cymbopogon refractus*** (barbed-wire grass):
Seed heads look like barbed wire
- ✓ ***Imperata cylindrica*** (bladey grass):
Vigorously spreads, white fluffy flowering stem
- ✓ ***Panicum decompositum*** (native millet):
Dense and clumping, seeds used as bushfood
- ✓ ***Panicum queenslandicum*** (yabila grass):
Tufted, perennial native Panic to 1m
- ✓ ***Sorghum leiocladum*** (native sorghum):
Open grassland species that resprouts after fire
- ✓ ***Themeda triandra*** (kangaroo grass):
Distinct large red-brown spikelets



Baccharis halimifolia

Groundsel bush

Form: Evergreen, perennial, dense, to 4m

Leaves: Dull green, wedge-shaped, leathery, toothed, to 5cm

Flowers: White to pale yellow, dense cotton-like heads, in autumn

Seed: Brown with white tufts, to 3mm

Origin: USA

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Threat to conservation areas. Pollen and seed can cause allergies.

Spread by: 🍃 🌊 🐾



Biancaea decapetala

Mysore thorn

Form: Evergreen, perennial, thorny, sprawling or climbing, to 10m

Leaves: Dark green, paler beneath, up to 30cm

Flowers: Pale yellow, elongated, clusters, to 40cm, in winter-spring

Fruit: Brown, woody pods, flattened, sharply beaked, to 8cm

Origin: India

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, cut stump, basal bark, complete removal (seedlings)

Comments: Also known as thorny poinciana. Can form impenetrable thickets.

Spread by: 🍃 🐾 🐾 🐾



Cascabela thevetia

Yellow oleander

Form: Evergreen, perennial, to 3m

Leaves: Glossy green, narrow, willow-like, waxy, milky sap, to 16cm

Flowers: Yellow, trumpet-shaped, in terminal clusters, to 6cm, in summer–autumn

Fruit: Green turning deep red-black, lantern-shaped, to 5cm

Origin: Tropical America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis. Can invade conservation, bushland and riparian areas.

Spread by:   



Cascabela thevetia | Yellow oleander

Cestrum parqui

Green cestrum

Form: Deciduous or semi-evergreen, suckering, to 3m

Leaves: Shiny green, pungent when crushed, to 10cm

Flowers: Yellow-green, in clusters, to 2.5cm, in summer

Fruit: Black to purple, shiny, egg-shaped, to 1cm, in summer–autumn

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Flowers smell foul during day and sweet at night. Also have unpleasant odour when crushed. Toxic if ingested.

Spread by:   



Cestrum parqui | Green cestrum



Duranta erecta

Duranta

Form: Evergreen, dense, slightly pendulous, thorny, to 5m

Leaves: Yellowish-green or variegated, soft, to 8cm

Flowers: Pale mauve to blue, also white cultivars, to 1.4cm, in spring–autumn

Fruit: Dull yellow to orange, to 1.2cm, in autumn–winter

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Invades moist or wet sites in bushland areas, common along waterways.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🐾 🍃



Lantana camara var. camara

Lantana

Form: Evergreen, perennial, arching, prickly, to 4m

Leaves: Dark green, toothed, rough, to 7cm

Flowers: Yellow, orange, red, small and tubular, in heads to 3cm, all year

Fruit: Black, oval, to 5mm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset-based protection

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray, cut stump, basal bark

Comments: Toxic if ingested, forms dense thickets. The most serious environmental weed in South-East Queensland.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍃



Lycium ferocissimum

African boxthorn

Form: Evergreen, perennial, dense, woody, to 5m

Leaves: Bright green, fleshy, clustered in groups, to 3cm

Flowers: White pale purple, purple inside, tubular, to 1cm, in summer

Fruit: Green turning red/orange, shiny, berry, to 1cm

Origin: South Africa

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Cut stump, basal bark, stem injection

Comments: 15cm spines. Forms impenetrable thickets. Weed of semi-arid and arid regions and drier environments.

Spread by: 🚚 🐾 🌿 🚚



Lycium ferocissimum | African boxthorn

Murraya paniculate 'Exotica'

Mock orange

Form: Evergreen, rounded, to 12m

Leaves: Dark green, shiny, 5–9 leaflets to 5cm

Flowers: Creamy, perfumed, star-shaped, to 4cm, in clusters, all year

Fruit: Glossy red/orange berries, to 2cm

Origin: China, Taiwan, Indian sub-continent

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, basal bark

Comments: Pollen can cause allergic reactions. Forms dense stands. Capable of growing to maturity under a rainforest canopy.

Spread by: 🚚 🐾 🌿 🚚



Murraya paniculate 'Exotica' | Mock orange



Ochna serrulata

Ochna

Form: Evergreen, to 2m

Leaves: Dark green, shiny toothed, to 5cm

Flowers: Yellow, five petals, to 2cm, in clusters, in spring-summer

Fruit: Green turning red, to 7mm, opening to reveal black berry

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark

Comments: Also called Mickey Mouse plant. More common in coastal areas but invades a wide range of sub-tropical and warm temperate areas.

Spread by: 🚢 🐾 🌿 🍷



Ricinus communis

Castor oil plant

Form: Evergreen, perennial, soft-wooded to 4m

Leaves: Dark green, glossy, 7-9 toothed lobes, to 70cm, on long reddish stalks

Flowers: Cream-yellow (male), red feathery styles (female), soft spines, round, to 1cm, in summer-autumn

Fruit: Green to red, turning brown, woody, spiny, to 2.5cm

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, complete removal (seedlings)

Comments: Seeds are extremely toxic to humans and livestock.

Spreads by: 🚢 🐾 🌿 🍷 🚚



Senna pendula var. *glabrata*

Easter cassia

Form: Evergreen, perennial, erect, to 4m

Leaves: Bright green, 3–6 pairs of oval leaflets, to 5cm

Flowers: Bright yellow, pea-like, 3cm, massed, in autumn



Fruit: Green turning brown, slender, pod, to 12cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark, cut stump, foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Similar to weed *Senna septemtrionalis* (arsenic bush) but also preferable native sennas, such as *Senna sophora* (pepper-leaved senna).

Spread by:  



Senna pendula var. *glabrata* | Easter cassia

Solanum mauritianum

Wild tobacco tree

Form: Evergreen, perennial, soft-wooded, multi-branched, to 4m

Leaves: Grey-green, hairy, oval, to 30cm

Flowers: Purple or violet, yellow centre, to 2.5cm, broad terminal heads, in summer

Fruit: Green to yellow, hairy, globular, to 1.5cm, in heads

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Forms dense understoreys that out-compete native vegetation.

Spread by:   



Solanum mauritianum | Wild tobacco tree



Solanum torvum

Devil's fig

Form: Evergreen, perennial, thorny stemmed, upright, to 3m

Leaves: Green, whitish underside, oval or rounded, entire to shallow lobed, to 25cm

Flowers: White, yellow centre, star-shaped, to 2.5cm, in branched clusters, all year

Fruit: Green or yellow, round, berry, to 1.7cm

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, basal bark

Comments: Reproduces by seed, mainly spread through the fruit being eaten by birds.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍷



Vachellia farnesiana

Mimosa bush

Form: Evergreen, perennial, multi-trunked, spreading, to 4m

Leaves: Fern-like, 1-7 pairs of branchlets, 5-23 pairs of leaflets, to 7.5cm long

Flowers: Yellow, multi-headed, sweet scented, rounded clusters, to 1.3cm, in autumn-spring

Fruit: Cigar-like, brown, hard, to 8.5cm

Origin: USA, South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark, cut stump, stem injection

Comments: Forms dense thorny thickets. Can be confused with listed weeds *Prosopis* spp (mesquite), *Parkinsonia aculeata* and *Vachellia nilotica* (prickly acacia). Similar to *Solanum chrysotrichum* (giant devil's fig).

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🍷 🚚



PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested shrub alternatives.

- ✓ ***Breynia oblongifolia*** (coffee bush):
Pink-red berries, bird and butterfly attracting
- ✓ ***Citrus australasica*** (finger lime):
Thorny understory shrub with edible fruits
- ✓ ***Graptophyllum excelsum*** (native fuchsia):
Attractive scarlet fuchsia-like flowers
- ✓ ***Hovea acutifolia*** (pointed-leaf hovea):
Masses of purple pea flowers
- ✓ ***Murraya ovatifoliolata*** (native murraya):
Dense dark green foliage with fragrant flowers
- ✓ ***Notelaea lloydii*** (Lloyd's olive):
A local 'vulnerable' species
- ✓ ***Pavetta australiensis*** (butterfly bush):
Butterfly-attracting shrub
- ✓ ***Pittosporum revolutum*** (rough-fruit pittosporum):
Perfumed yellow flowers,
orange-yellow fruit
- ✓ ***Senna sophera*** (pepper-leaved senna):
Native senna with yellow flowers
- ✓ ***Trema tomentosa*** (poison peach):
Fast-growing shrubby tree, leaves toxic to livestock
- ✓ ***Wikstroemia indica*** (tie bush):
Slender shrub, leaves and berries are toxic



Celtis sinensis

Chinese elm

Form: Deciduous, large, spreading to 20m

Leaves: Glossy upper surface, bluntly toothed margins, to 8cm

Flowers: Greenish, inconspicuous

Seeds: Green, turning orange to red to brown, round, wrinkled, to 8mm

Origin: China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, or stem injection

Comments: Dense infestations use large amounts of water and suppress native vegetation growth.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🐾 🍃



Cinnamomum camphora

Camphor laurel

Form: Evergreen, spreading, to 20m

Leaves: Bright green, glossy, camphor smell when crushed, to 10cm

Flowers: Whitish, greenish or yellowish, to 6mm, in spring

Fruit: Black, shiny, egg-shaped, to 1cm

Origin: Eastern Asia

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Basal bark, cut stump, foliar spray, stem injection

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Widely naturalised in eastern Australia.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🐾 🍃



Corymbia torelliana

Cadaji

Form: Evergreen, tall, to 30m

Leaves: Pale green, hairy when young, to 16cm. Leaves on older trees can have black residue.

Flowers: Creamy, ageing to light honey colour, massed clusters, in spring–summer

Fruit: Brown, woody capsule, 1.4cm

Origin: Tropical northern Queensland

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark, cut stump, foliar spray or stem injection

Comments: Prolifically self-seeds in SEQ bushland, hazardous to some native bees.

Spread by:   



Corymbia torelliana | Cadaji

Erythrina crista-galli

Cockcomb coral tree

Form: Deciduous, spreading, to 8m

Leaves: Dark green, three elongated leaflets, to 6cm

Flowers: Scarlet, pea-shaped, clusters, to 30cm, in spring–summer

Fruit/Seed: Green, turning dark brown, pod. Inside are 8–10 chestnut brown, bean-shaped seeds to 1.5cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark, cut stump, foliar spray, stem injection

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Stems may have sharp, hooked thorns.

Spread by:  



Erythrina crista-galli | Cockcomb coral tree



Eugenia uniflora

Brazilian cherry

Form: Evergreen, dense, to 5m

Leaves: Dark green, turning red in winter, glossy, aromatic, to 5cm

Flowers: White, four petals, to 2cm, in spring–autumn

Fruit: Orange-red, eight segments, berry, to 2cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal (seedlings), cut stump, foliar spray, basal bark

Comments: Spicy resinous fragrance when leaves crushed which can cause respiratory distress in some people.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🍂



Gleditsia triacanthos

Honey locust

Form: Deciduous, spiny, to 10m

Leaves: Light green, numerous leaflets, to 20cm

Flowers: Greenish-creamy yellow, to 5mm, elongated drooping clusters, in spring–summer

Fruit: Green turning dark brown, flattened curved pods, to 45cm

Origin: North America and Canada

Biosecurity Act: Category 3
Ipswich strategy: Eradication

Control: Basal bark, stem injection, cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Can form dense impenetrable stands. Spines up to 18cm cover trunk and branches.

Spread by: 🐾 🌊 🍂



Jacaranda mimosifolia

Jacaranda

Form: Deciduous, to 10m

Leaves: Light green, fern-like with 14–24 leaflets

Flowers: Bluish-lavender, pendulous, tubular, to 5cm, in spring–summer

Fruit: Blackish-brown flattened pod to 6cm, containing winged seeds

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Forms a dense shady canopy excluding all other vegetation. Resprouts easily if damaged and can form thickets of seedlings beneath planted trees.

Spread by: 🚚 🌿 🍷



Koelreuteria elegans *subsp. formosana*

Chinese rain tree

Form: Deciduous, to 15m

Leaves: Fern-like, to 45cm, with 8–17 leaflets

Flowers: Bright yellow, clusters, to 45cm, in autumn

Fruit: Pink/red/purple capsule, segmented pods that split and turn brown

Origin: Taiwan

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Dense canopy excludes other vegetation. Has the potential to seriously degrade Australian ecosystems.

Spread by: 🚚 🌿 🍷





Leucaena leucocephala

Leucaena

Form: Evergreen, perennial, upright, to 7m

Leaves: Green, fern-like, to 15cm

Flowers: White, spherical, to 2cm, in summer

Fruit: Green flat pods turning shiny brown, to 15cm

Origin: Central America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Introduced as livestock fodder but toxic to horses. Forms dense thickets. A very troublesome weed of waterways and roadsides.

Spread by: 🚚 🐾 🌿 🚚



Ligustrum lucidum

Broad-leaved privet

Form: Evergreen, perennial, to 10m

Leaves: Dark green, shiny above and dull below, oval, paired, to 10cm

Flowers: White, to 6mm, in summer

Fruit: Blue-black berry, to 8mm

Origin: China, Korea, Japan

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis. Often cultivated as a hedge or windbreak. Annual seed production is enormous and it quickly outcompetes riparian vegetation.

Spread by: 🚚 🐾 🌿 🚚



Ligustrum sinense

Small-leaved privet

Form: Evergreen, perennial, multi-stemmed, to 4m

Leaves: Green, oval, paired, finely hairy, to 7cm

Flowers: White, fragrant, dense clusters, to 15cm, in spring

Fruit: Blue-black berry, to 5mm

Origin: Taiwan, Laos, Vietnam

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis. Will dominate shrub layer of invaded habitat.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍂 🚚



Morus alba

White mulberry

Form: Deciduous to evergreen, spreading, to 25m

Leaves: Light green, heart-shaped, toothed/lobed, to 30cm

Flowers: Green, in pendulous clusters, to 4cm, in summer

Fruit: White to pink, or purple, multi-seeded berries, to 2.5cm

Origin: China

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, basal bark

Comments: Unripe fruit and milky sap is toxic. Invades waterways. Cultivated for its fruit and to feed silkworms.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🐾 🍂





Schefflera actinophylla | Umbrella tree



Schefflera actinophylla

Umbrella tree

Form: Evergreen, perennial, upright, multi-stemmed, to 10m

Leaves: Glossy, green, umbrella-like, leaflets to 30cm

Flowers: Bright red, small, on radiating spikes to 1m, in spring-summer

Fruit: Dark red turning black, fleshy, to 5mm

Origin: Tropical northern Australia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis. Was widely cultivated in gardens, is shade tolerant.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🍂

Schinus terebinthifolius | Broad-leaved pepper tree



Schinus terebinthifolius

Broad-leaved pepper tree

Form: Evergreen, perennial, arching, spreading, multi-trunked, to 15m

Leaves: Dark green with contrasting white veins, 5-9 leaflets, oval, to 17cm

Flowers: Whitish, densely branched clusters, to 12.5cm, all year

Fruit: Red, glossy, globular, to 6.5mm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🍂



Spathodea campanulata
African tulip tree

Form: Evergreen, perennial, upright, spreading, to 25m

Leaves: Glossy green, to 60cm, leaflets to 11cm

Flowers: Yellow-edged scarlet, bell-shaped, to 13cm, in spring

Fruit: Red/brown, woody capsule, to 20cm, contains papery seeds

Origin: Tropical western Africa

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Control: Cut stump, basal bark, stem injection

Comments: Toxic to native bees and other insects. Cultivated as a garden plant and street tree. Prefers wetter habitats.

Spread by: 🍷 🌊 🍂



Spathodea campanulata | African tulip tree

Syagrus romanzoffiana
Cocos palm

Form: Evergreen, perennial, upright to 20m

Leaves: Mid-green, arching, plume-like, to 5m

Flowers: Yellow, small, in threes, in spring-summer

Fruit: Orange/red, fat, berry, to 2.5cm, in large pendulous clusters

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal

Comments: Forms thick carpets of seedlings excluding other vegetation. Can injure or kill flying foxes.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🍂



Syagrus romanzoffiana | Cocos palm



Tecoma stans

Yellow bells

Form: Evergreen, perennial, multi-branched, to 4m

Leaves: Bright green, 3–11 leaflets, toothed, pointed, to 10cm

Flowers: Yellow, bell-shaped, to 5cm, in clusters, in summer

Fruit: Pale grey-brown papery pods to 30cm, filled with papery seeds to 8mm

Origin: Tropical America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, basal bark, stem injection

Comments: Tends to re-colonise areas after fire.

Spread by: 🍷 🌊 🍂



Tipuana tipu

Tipuana

Form: Deciduous, perennial, spreading, to 25m

Leaves: Dark green, to 25cm, leaflets to 4cm

Flowers: Yellow/orange, in clusters, in late summer

Fruit: Brown, winged ‘helicopter’ pods, to 10cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, stem injection, basal bark

Comments: Was planted as a shade tree, but forms dense stands along waterways causing flooding. Fast growing and able to reach 30m.

Spread by: 🍷 🌊 🍂



PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested tree alternatives.

- ✓ ***Acacia deanei*** (green wattle): Upright small tree with pale yellow flowers
- ✓ ***Allocasuarina cunninghamiana*** (river she-oak): Spreading habit with fine needle-like foliage
- ✓ ***Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*** (piccabeen palm): Native palm with violet flowers and red fruit
- ✓ ***Barklya syringifolia*** (crown of gold): Weeping branches and golden flower spikes
- ✓ ***Brachychiton acerifolius*** (flame tree): Bright red bell-shaped flowers
- ✓ ***Bursaria spinosa*** (native boxthorn): Small tree with fragrant white flowers
- ✓ ***Carissa ovata*** (currant bush): Small white flowers and purple-black berry
- ✓ ***Cassia brewsteri*** (Leichhardt bean): Tall shade tree with red and yellow flowers
- ✓ ***Castanospermum australe*** (black bean): Rainforest tree with masses of yellow and red flowers
- ✓ ***Corymbia intermedia*** (pink bloodwood): Tall shade and habitat tree with white flowers
- ✓ ***Cryptocarya microneura*** (murrogun): Screen tree, birds and butterfly attracting
- ✓ ***Eucalyptus curtisii*** (plunkett mallee): Fast-growing tree with white flower clusters
- ✓ ***Ficus obliqua*** (small-leaved fig): Large tree with dense canopy
- ✓ ***Harpullia pendula*** (tulipwood): Fast-growing shade tree with orange seed cases
- ✓ ***Hymenosporum flavum*** (native frangipani): Highly fragrant flower clusters
- ✓ ***Melaleuca viminalis*** (weeping bottlebrush): Light weeping foliage and vibrant flowers
- ✓ ***Pipturus argenteus*** (native mulberry): Fast-growing with edible fruits
- ✓ ***Psychotria daphnoides*** (smooth psychotria): Open shrub with small white flowers and fruit
- ✓ ***Rhodospaera rhodantha*** (deep yellow wood): Rounded tree with masses of red flowers
- ✓ ***Stenocarpus sinuatus*** (wheel of fire): Ornamental with orange-red flowers
- ✓ ***Sterculia quadrifida*** (peanut tree): Deciduous with orange-red fruit and edible seeds
- ✓ ***Waterhousia floribunda*** (weeping lilly pilly): Bushy tree with white fluffy flowers
- ✓ ***Xanthostemon chrysanthus*** (golden penda): Showy yellow blooms



Anredera cordifolia

Madeira vine

Form: Perennial, vigorous, smothering, to 30m high

Leaves: Green, fleshy, heart-shaped, to 10cm

Flowers: Cream, fragrant, massed spikes, to 30cm, in summer

Fruit: Greyish-brown to green warty tubers, to 10cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset-based protection

Control: Stem scrape, cut stump, foliar spray, biocontrol

Comments: Sap is a skin irritant. Can smother canopy and ground layer.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍂



Araujia sericifera

Moth vine

Form: Evergreen, perennial, vigorous, to 7m

Leaves: Dark green, glossy, paired, fleshy, oval to triangular, to 10cm

Flowers: White, cream, violet or pale pink, chalice-shaped, to 2cm, in summer-autumn

Fruit/seeds: Pale to grey-green, choko-shaped, to 10cm, black seeds to 8mm with sticky hairs

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Stem scrape, cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Also called false choko. Toxic if ingested. Sap can cause allergic reactions.

Spread by: 🌊 🌊 🍂



***Aristolochia* spp.**
(other than natives)

Dutchman's pipe

Form: Slender twining stem

Leaves: Bright green above and paler below, broad heart-shaped

Flowers: Unusual, tubular, cream and reddish-purple, to 10cm across

Fruit: Cylindrical capsules, to 6cm long, contain tear-shaped seeds

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset protection

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, stem scrape

Comments: Toxic to larvae of Richmond birdwing butterfly. Outcompetes native *Pararistolochia praevenosa* (Birdwing butterfly vine).

Spread by: 🐛 🌿 🍷



Stock image

Aristolochia spp. | Dutchman's pipe

Asparagus aethiopicus
cv 'Sprengeri'

Ground asparagus fern

Form: Evergreen, perennial, arching, spined, multi-stemmed, to 60cm

Leaves: Pale green, narrow, flattened, to 2.5cm

Flowers: White to pale pink, bell-shaped, to 4mm, in groups, in spring–autumn

Fruit: Red berry, to 8mm

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset-based protection

Control: Complete removal of the crown, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic sap

Spread by: 🌿 🐛 🍷



Asparagus aethiopicus cv 'Sprengeri'
Ground asparagus fern



Asparagus africanus Climbing asparagus fern

Form: Evergreen, perennial, multi-stemmed, thorny, climbing to 12m

Leaves: Bright green, fern-like, to 1.5cm

Flowers: Whitish, to 5mm, in clusters, in summer-autumn

Fruit: Orange, round berry, to 6mm

Origin: Southern Africa

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, stem scrape, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic sap causes dermatitis, aggressively smothers vegetation.

Spread by: 🌿 🐦 🍂



Asparagus plumosus Feathered asparagus fern

Form: Evergreen, perennial, multi-stemmed, spined, climbing to 5m

Leaves: Bright green, fern-like, to 7mm

Flowers: Whitish, spring-autumn

Fruit: Black, round berry, to 5mm

Origin: Southern Africa

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Cut stump, stem scrape, removal of crown

Comments: Toxic sap causes dermatitis, aggressively smothers vegetation.

Spread by: 🌿 🐦 🍂





Cardiospermum grandiflorum

Balloon vine

Form: Evergreen, perennial, ribbed stems, climbing to 8m

Leaves: Toothed/lobed, in threes, to 16cm

Flowers: White, fragrant, in clusters, tendrils, in summer–winter

Fruit: Green drying to brown, balloon-like papery capsule, to 6.5cm, black seeds to 7mm

Origin: Tropical America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Asset protection

Control: Stem scrape, cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Covered in bristly hairs. Commonly grows over vegetation along creeks and rivers.

Spread by: 🚚 🌿 🍷



Cardiospermum grandiflorum | Balloon vine

Desmodium uncinatum

Silverleaf desmodium

Form: Perennial, scrambling, to 1.5m

Leaves: Dark green with silver stripe, three leaflets, pointed tips, to 10cm

Flowers: Pink or purple turning blue-green, to 1cm, in summer–autumn

Fruit: Brown curved elongated pod covered in hooked hairs, to 3cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, stem scrape

Comments: Also called Velcro plant, it can ensnare and kill native wildlife.

Spread by: 🚚 🐾 🌿 🚚 🚚



Desmodium uncinatum | Silverleaf desmodium



Dolichandra unguis-cati

Cat's claw creeper

Form: Evergreen, perennial, woody, with fine claw-like hooks

Leaves: Dark green, oval, pointed, paired leaflets, to 4cm, three-hooked tendril

Flowers: Yellow, to 8cm, hanging clusters, in spring

Fruit: Glossy green turning dark brown pods, to 40cm

Origin: Tropical North America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray, biocontrol

Comments: Can smother vegetation and bring down large trees due to weight of vines.

Spread by: 🍷 🌿 🍷



Ipomoea cairica

Mile-a-minute

Form: Perennial, rampant, to 4.5m

Leaves: Green, 5-7 narrow lobes, to 10cm

Flowers: Purple, purple-pink or whitish, tubular, to 6cm, all year

Fruit: Green turning brown, globular, to 1.2cm. Seeds have long silky hairs

Origin: Tropical Africa and Asia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, stem scrape, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic seeds. Can smother trees and understorey plants or creep along ground. Rapid growth.

Spread by: 🍷 🌿 🍷



Ipomoea indica

Blue morning glory

Form: Perennial, evergreen, twining, to 10m

Leaves: Green, heart-shaped, 3–5 lobed, bluntly pointed, to 10cm

Flowers: Blue to purple, to 5cm, small clusters, trumpet-shaped, in summer

Fruit: Brown, dry, round, to 1cm

Origin: Central and South America, south-eastern Asia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, stem scrape, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic seeds. Can smother trees and understorey plants.

Spread by: 🌊 🍃



Ipomoea indica | Blue morning glory

Lantana montevidensis

Creeping lantana

Form: Evergreen, perennial, prostrate, to 3m

Leaves: Dull green, rough, serrated, to 3cm

Flowers: Mauve, purple or cream, yellow centre, tubular, dense clusters, to 2cm, all year

Fruit: Purplish/black berry, to 7mm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Asset-based protection

Control: Foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Can replace native pasture grasses and reduce biodiversity. Grows in diverse habitats and is drought tolerant.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍃



Lantana montevidensis | Creeping lantana



Lonicera japonica
Chinese honeysuckle

Form: Semi-deciduous, perennial, vigorous, twining, to 8m

Leaves: Dark green, heart-shaped, to 7cm

Flowers: Tubular, in pairs, white ageing to yellow, purplish exterior, to 5cm, in summer–autumn

Fruit: Shiny black berry, to 1cm

Origin: China, Japan

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Spreading stems can take root. Naturalised in or near rainforests and closed forest areas.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍃



Macroptilium atropurpureum
Siratro

Form: Evergreen, perennial, robust, creeping or climbing to 5m

Leaves: Green, three-lobed, oval, leaflets to 7cm

Flowers: Dark red-purple to black-purple, pea shaped, 2.4cm, all year

Fruit: Green turning brown, slender pods, to 10cm

Origin: North and South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Also known as purple bean. A problem in revegetation sites where it smothers trees and shrubs.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🍃



Neonotonia wightii

Glycine

Form: Evergreen, perennial, twining or scrambling, to 4.5m

Leaves: Dark green, three leaflets, hairless or rusty velvet hairs, to 16cm

Flowers: Cream to mauve, pea-shaped to 10mm, in clusters, in late autumn

Fruit: Green turning dark brown, elongated flattened pod, to 3.5cm

Origin: Africa, Indian sub-continent, south-eastern Asia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Can infest extensive areas, smothering grasses and understorey vegetation. Prevents regeneration of native species. Prominent along waterways.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍃



Neonotonia wightii | Glycine

Nephrolepis cordifolia

Fishbone fern

Form: Upright or drooping fronds, to 50cm long

Leaves: Numerous narrow 'leaflets' to 35mm long

Spores: Numerous brown, round to kidney-shaped spots will be under mature fronds. These contain numerous spores

Origin: Tropical regions

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal

Comments: Forms a network of creeping stems and develops fleshy rounded tubers. In natural environment is found in rocky areas, rainforest margins or as an epiphyte on palm trees.

Spread by: 🍃 🌊 🍃



Stock image

Nephrolepis cordifolia | Fishbone fern



Passiflora suberosa

Corky passion vine

Form: Evergreen, perennial, weak climbing/spreading, to 5m

Leaves: Dark green, three-lobed, to 8cm, tendril at base

Flowers: Pale green, inconspicuous, to 2.5cm, in summer

Fruit: Purple to black, berry, to 1cm

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Leaves and green fruit are toxic. Forms a corky bark at base of older stems.

Spread by: 🌿 🐾 🍷 🍷



Passiflora subpeltata

White passion flower

Form: Evergreen, perennial, weak climbing/spreading, to 5m

Leaves: Pale green, three-lobed, to 10cm, tendril at base

Flowers: White, to 5cm, in summer

Fruit: Greenish turning yellow, berry, leathery, to 4cm

Origin: Central and South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Fruit not edible, toxic if ingested by humans or livestock, contains cyanic acid.

Spread by: 🌿 🐾 🍷 🍷



Solanum seaforthianum

Brazilian nightshade

Form: Evergreen, perennial, slender, woody, to 5m

Leaves: Bright green, 3–9 pointed lobes, to 15cm

Flowers: Purple, to 3cm, in drooping clusters, in summer

Fruit: Red shiny berry, to 1cm

Origin: Central and South America, Caribbean

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: Fruit is toxic to humans. Common weed of untended areas with fertile soils. Often found covering fences or shrubs.

Spread by: 🌊 🐦 🍃



Solanum seaforthianum | Brazilian nightshade

Thunbergia alata

Black-eyed susan

Form: Evergreen, slender, vigorous, twining to 3m

Leaves: Dark green, hairy, heart-shaped, serrated edges, to 6cm

Flowers: Orange to yellow, black throat, five-lobed, to 3cm, in summer

Fruit: Brown, dry, to 4mm, in a bird's head shaped pod to 2cm

Origin: Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Forms dense mats. Roots can form at nodes of stem where they come into contact with soil, forming new plants.

Spread by: 🌊 🐭 🍃



Thunbergia alata | Black-eyed susan



Thunbergia grandiflora

Blue thunbergia

Form: Evergreen, perennial, vigorous, climbing and smothering vine to 15m

Leaves: Bright green, triangular to egg-shaped, can be entire, toothed or lobed and sometimes hairy, to 22cm

Flowers: Pale blue, violet, mauve or white, with a pale yellow or whitish throat, trumpet-shaped, to 8cm, in summer - autumn

Fruit: Brown, rounded capsule to 1.8cm, long tapered beak, to 5cm

Origin: Indian sub-continent, southern China

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Control: Cut stump, foliar spray

Comments: A weed of watercourses, most common in coastal areas

Spread by: 🌊 🌿



Tradescantia fluminensis

Wandering dude

Form: Evergreen, perennial, fleshy, trailing or creeping, to 4m

Leaves: Dark green, oval, shiny, smooth, fleshy to 2.5cm

Flowers: White, three petals, singular, to 1cm, in spring-summer

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Easily grows from fragments. Forms dense mats. Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis. Prefers damp and shaded areas.

Spread by: 🌊 🌿 🚚



PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested vine and creeper alternatives.

- ✓ ***Austrosteenisia blackii*** (bloodvine): Semi-deciduous climber with dark purple pea flowers
- ✓ ***Cissus antarctica*** (kangaroo vine): Climber or groundcover with glossy leaves
- ✓ ***Cayratia clematidea*** (native grapevine): Weak climber with fleshy berries
- ✓ ***Cullen tenax*** (emu foot): Dainty creeper with tiny pink to mauve flowers
- ✓ ***Deeringia arborescens*** (climbing deeringia): Robust vine with a tree-like habit and spikes of red fruit
- ✓ ***Eremophila debilis*** (winter apple): Low trailing shrub with small flowers and fleshy pink-red fruit
- ✓ ***Eustrephus latifolius*** (wombat berry): Climber or groundcover with orange fruit
- ✓ ***Geitonoplesium cymosum*** (scrambling lily): Delicate twining plant with clusters of pendulous flowers
- ✓ ***Glycine clandestina*** (twining glycine): Wiry, twining plant with mauve to pale pink pea flowers
- ✓ ***Hardenbergia violacea*** (native sarsaparilla): Climbing plant with long sprays of purple pea flowers
- ✓ ***Hibbertia scandens*** (golden guinea vine): Twining plant with large yellow flowers
- ✓ ***Hoya australis*** (Hoya): Fast-growing climber with waxy leaves and fragrant flower clusters
- ✓ ***Kennedia rubicunda*** (red kennedy pea): Climbing or trailing plant with red pea flowers
- ✓ ***Lygodium microphyllum*** (climbing maidenhair): Fast-growing climbing fern
- ✓ ***Oplismenus aemulus*** (wavy basket grass): Scrambling grass, butterfly attracting, good for moist areas
- ✓ ***Pandorea pandorana*** (wonga vine): Twining climber with clusters of bell-shaped flowers
- ✓ ***Pandorea jasminoides*** (bower vine): Rambling climber with large white-pink flowers
- ✓ ***Pararistolochia praevenosa*** (birdwing butterfly vine): Yellow flowers with purple veins
- ✓ ***Parsonia straminea*** (monkey rope vine): Woody vine with small yellowish fragrant flowers
- ✓ ***Passiflora aurantia*** (native passionfruit): Tendril climber with red or salmon-coloured flowers
- ✓ ***Stephania japonica*** (tape vine): Slender climber with heart-shaped leaves
- ✓ ***Tecomanthe hillii*** (Fraser Island creeper): Vine with showy large pink trumpet flowers



Cabomba caroliniana

Fanwort

Form: Evergreen, perennial, submerged aquatic plant, multiple stems, to 10cm

Leaves: Light green, feathery, fan-shaped, thin jelly-like slime, to 7cm

Flowers: White, yellow centre, emergent, to 2cm, in summer–autumn

Origin: North and Central America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3
Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: A weed of slow-moving waterways. Grows quickly and chokes waterways. Forms a monoculture.

Spread by:    



Egeria densa

Dense waterweed

Form: Perennial, submerged, to 2m

Leaves: Bright green, 4–8 whorled, to 5mm

Flowers: White, emergent, three-lobed, to 2cm, in spring–summer

Origin: Eastern South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal

Comments: Can form dense surface mats that restrict water movement and block light penetration. It depletes water oxygen levels. Its stems can be up to 5m long and are usually anchored to the substrate but can sometimes be free-floating. It reproduces via stem fragments.

Spread by:   



Eichhornia crassipes

Water hyacinth

Form: Perennial, free-floating, to 1m

Leaves: Glossy green, thick oval, to 20cm. Buoyant bulb at leaf base

Flowers: Blue-purple, lavender to pink, to 7cm, 8–15 per spike, in summer–winter

Fruit: Narrow, three-chambered capsule, to 1.5cm

Origin: Amazon basin

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Grazing, foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Dense mats restrict water movement.

Spread by: 🚤 🌊 🚚



Nymphaea caerulea *subsp. zanzibarensis*

Blue lotus

Form: Evergreen, perennial, emergent, lily, to 2.5m

Leaves: Green, round with radial slit, margins toothed, floating, to 40cm

Flowers: Blue to pink, emergent, to 15cm, in summer–autumn

Origin: Africa, south-western Asia

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Widely grown aquatic plant that has escaped cultivation and become a weed of freshwater habitats. Displaces similar native species of water lily.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🌿





Pistia stratiotes

Water lettuce

Form: Evergreen perennial, free-floating, to 30cm

Leaves: Pale yellow-green or grey-green, spongy, rosette, to 15cm

Flowers: Inconspicuous, in summer – early autumn

Fruit: Greenish, oval berries, to 1cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Rapidly forms dense mats that cover the surface of entire rivers and dams. Breeding ground for mosquitos. Shades out native plants.

Spread by: 🚢 🌊 🌿 🚚



Sagittaria platyphylla

Sagittaria arrowhead

Form: Perennial, emergent, to 1.2m

Leaves: Submerged – translucent, strap-like to 50cm. Emergent – lance-shaped to 28cm, on long stalks

Flowers: White or pink, 2-12 whorls of three, to 2cm, in summer–autumn

Fruit: Dry, in clusters to 1.5cm. Contain flattened, winged segmented seeds, to 3mm

Origin: North America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Reproduces by seed, tubers and stem segments.

Spread by: 🐾 🌿 🚚



Salvinia molesta

Salvinia

Form: Free-floating, fern

Fronds: Pale green to green-brown, water-repellent hairs, egg-beater shape, in threes, to 4cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Prefer water 20–30 degrees Celsius. Reproduces vegetatively with floating branches readily breaking apart and forming new plants. Forms dense mats excluding other vegetation and sunlight and degrades water quality.

Spread by:    



PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested aquatic plant alternatives.

- ✓ ***Crinum pedunculatum*** (river lily): Tolerant of wet and dry conditions, to 1.5m with white blooms
- ✓ ***Myriophyllum papillosum*** (common watermilfoil): Trailing stems to 2m, good aquarium plant
- ✓ ***Nymphoides indica*** (water snowflake): Smooth green floating leaves, delicate white fringed flowers
- ✓ ***Nymphaea violacea*** (native waterlily): Floating perennial with blue-violet blooms
- ✓ ***Ottelia ovalifolia*** (swamp lily): Perennial with three-petaled white flowers
- ✓ ***Philydrum lanuginosum*** (frogsmouth): Unusual clumping plant with tall spikes of soft yellow flowers
- ✓ ***Schoenoplectus mucronatus*** (star club rush): Flowering sedge with habitat and erosion benefits
- ✓ ***Triglochin striatum*** (streaked arrowgrass): Slender perennial to 50cm
- ✓ ***Typha orientalis*** (bulrush): Reed with brown velvety flower spikes, grows in fresh or brackish water
- ✓ ***Vallisneria nana*** (vallisneria): Dark green, narrow or thin leaves, to 15cm



Agave americana | Century plant

Agave americana

Century plant

Form: Evergreen, perennial, short-stemmed or stem-less, to 2.5m

Leaves: Green to grey-green, yellow or white stripe, fleshy, to 2.5m

Flowers: Green-yellow, up to 10cm, on spikes to 7m, in summer–autumn

Fruit: Green turning black, shiny, capsule to 8cm

Origin: Mexico

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark, complete removal

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap causes dermatitis. Very long-lived plant.

Spread by: 🌿 🌿 🌿

Agave sisalana | Sisal hemp



Agave sisalana

Sisal hemp

Form: Evergreen, perennial, short-stemmed or stem-less, to 2.5m

Leaves: Green to grey-green with yellow or white stripe, fleshy, to 2.5m

Flowers: Grey-yellow, up to 6cm, on spikes to 5m

Fruit/seeds: Rarely, self-propagates by suckers and plantlets

Origin: Mexico

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Basal bark, complete removal

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap causes dermatitis. Does not spread easily but difficult to remove.

Spread by: 🌿 🌿 🌿



Bryophyllum delagoense

Mother-of-millions

Form: Perennial, upright, to 1.8m

Leaves: Greyish, fleshy, mottled, cylindrical, toothed tips, to 1.5cm

Flowers: Red or red-pink, drooping, bell-shaped, dense clusters, to 4cm, in winter-spring

Fruit/seed: Papery, to 1cm, brown seeds, to 1mm

Origin: Madagascar

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal, fire

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Can survive drought. Reproduces via seeds and vegetatively.

Spread by: 🚚 🌿 🐾 🍷 🚚



Bryophyllum delagoense | Mother-of-millions

Bryophyllum x houghtoni

Mother-of-millions hybrids

Form: Evergreen, perennial, to 1.8m

Leaves: Grey, grey-green or pink-grey, boat shaped, thick, notched edges, hairless, to 8cm

Flowers: Red or red-pink, drooping, bell-shaped, dense clusters, to 4cm, in winter-spring

Fruit: Papery, to 1cm, brown seeds, to 1mm

Origin: Hybrid/cultivar

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal, fire

Comments: Hybrid has similar negative impacts as mother of millions.

Spread by: 🚚 🌿 🐾 🍷 🚚



Bryophyllum x houghtoni | Mother-of-millions hybrids



Bryophyllum pinnatum

Resurrection plant

Form: Evergreen, perennial, to 2m

Leaves: Bright or light green or yellow-green, broad, oval, fleshy, five leaflets, wavy edges, to 25cm

Flowers: Yellow-green, often tinged pink, bell-shaped, drooping in loose clusters, to 7cm, all year

Fruit: Papery to 1cm, brown seeds to 1mm

Origin: Madagascar, Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal, fire

Comments: Toxic if ingested. Forms dense infestations, replacing native vegetation.

Spread by: 🌿 🌊 🐾 🍃 🚚



Callisia fragrans

Purple succulent

Form: Evergreen, perennial, spreading, individuals to 1.5m

Leaves: Glossy green to red-purple, fleshy, lance-like, to 25cm

Flowers: Small, white, fragrant, in late winter–spring

Fruit: Small three-celled capsule, to 4mm

Origin: Central America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Foliar spray, complete removal

Comments: Can cause allergic reactions in children and pets. A garden escapee that is now common in waste and disturbed sites and around urban areas. Can rapidly overtake bushland areas.



Furcraea foetida

Cuban hemp

Form: Evergreen, fleshy, to 2m

Leaves: Green, fleshy, rosette, to 2m, sharp brown spine to 8cm at leaf tip, widely spaced prickles to 1cm along lower margins

Flowers: Green-white to yellow-green, fragrant, on massive upright much-branched flower cluster to 12m, in autumn-winter

Origin: Tropical South America

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Invades gullies, hillsides and open woodlands and can form dense thickets.

Spread by: 🌊 🐾 🌿



Harrisia martinii

Harrisia cactus

Form: Perennial, prostrate to upright, to 2m

Stems: Green, slender, three-ribbed to 2m, dense 3cm thorns at joints

Flowers: Pink, funnel-shaped, multi-petalled, at night, to 15cm, in summer

Fruit: Red, globular, prickly, to 5cm

Origin: South America

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich Strategy: Containment

Control: Foliar spray

Comments: Invades open woodlands and pastures. Forms tangled mats and can scramble over other plants to form impenetrable thickets.

Spread by: 🐾 🐾 🌿





Opuntia stricta (common prickly pear)



Opuntia aurantiaca (tiger pear)

Opuntia spp.

Various prickly pears

There are several species of *Opuntia* that have been identified as invasive weeds in the Ipswich LGA.

Below are some defining features of key species, but common between all:

Biosecurity Act: Category 3

Ipswich strategy:

Containment

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Opuntia aurantiaca

Tiger pear, jointed cactus

Form: Perennial, mat-forming, to 2m

Stems: Dark green to

purple-red, flattened, to 25cm

Flowers: Yellow, multi-petalled, tubular, to 5cm, in summer

Fruit: Red with purple berries, round, to 2.5cm

Origin: South America

Control: Basal bark

Opuntia monacantha

Drooping tree pear

Form: Evergreen, perennial, drooping, fleshy, to 3m

Stems: Bright green, multi-branched, flattened, egg-shaped, fleshy, to 45cm

Flowers: Yellow, red markings on underside, to 7.5cm, in late spring – early autumn

Fruit: Green turning purple-red, tufts of bristles, pear-shaped, to 7.5cm

Origin: South America

Control: Biocontrol, stem injection



Opuntia stricta

Common prickly pear

Form: Perennial, sprawling, to 1.5m

Stems: Blue-green, flattened, to 35cm, brownish bristles, yellow-brown spines to 4cm

Flowers: Yellow, funnel-shaped, multi-petalled, to 8cm, in summer

Fruit: Purple berries, to 7cm

Origin: Central and South America

Control: Biocontrol, stem injection, foliar spray



Opuntia tomentosa

Velvety tree pear

Form: Evergreen, erect, multi-branched, to 5m

Stems: Dull green, bristles and spines, to 2cm

Flowers: Orange, multi-petalled, tubular, to 8cm, in summer

Fruit: Dull red, oval berry, to 5cm

Origin: Mexico, Guatemala

Control: Biocontrol, stem injection, basal bark, cut stump



Opuntia monacantha (drooping tree pear)

Other opuntia species of note

Sighting of these species must be reported to a Biosecurity inspector or authorised person.

Opuntia elata

Riverina pear

Biosecurity Act: Category 2, 3, 4, 5

Opuntia microdasys

Bunny ears

Biosecurity Act: Category 2, 3, 4, 5



Opuntia tomentosa (velvety tree pear)



Sansevieria trifasciata

Mother-in-law's tongue

Form: Evergreen, clumping, to 1.2m

Leaves: Erect, strap-like, marbled or variegated, grey-green to yellow, to 1m

Flowers: White to cream, tubular, to 3cm, in spring–summer

Fruit: Berry to 8mm, pale brown seeds to 6.5mm

Origin: South Africa

Biosecurity Act: Not listed

Control: Complete removal, foliar spray

Comments: Toxic if ingested, sap can cause dermatitis. Reproduces by seed, and underground stems.

Spread by:  

PLANT ME INSTEAD

Here are some suggested alternatives to cacti and succulents.

- ✓ *Dianella brevipedunculata* (flax lily): Clumping grass, blue-purple flowers and purple berries
- ✓ *Doryanthes palmeri* (spear lily): Large sword-like leaves and unique flowerhead
- ✓ *Imperata cylindrica* (bladey grass): White fluffy flowering stem
- ✓ *Lepidozamia peroffskyana* (shining burrawang): Tall cycad with arching spiky leaves
- ✓ *Lomandra longifolia* (spiny-head mat rush): Fast-growing large lomandra
- ✓ *Lomandra multiflora* (many-flowered mat rush): Creamy yellow flower clusters
- ✓ *Microsorium punctatum* (creeping bird's nest fern): Upright fern with glossy green fronds
- ✓ *Ottochloa gracillima* (pademelon grass): Delicate groundcover, forms dense mats in shade
- ✓ *Pollia crispate* (pollia): Succulent creeping groundcover with glossy green leaves





IPSWICH ENVIROPLAN

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