

Singapore daisy

Sphagneticola trilobata



Singapore daisy is a mat forming ground cover. It spreads rapidly and smothers seedling, ferns and shrubs and will out-compete them for survival. Singapore daisy is invading all different environmental areas, even growing in sand.

Legal requirements

Singapore daisy is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on Singapore daisy. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Singapore daisy is a vigorous ground cover or low climbing plant. The leaves are lush glossy green, usually 3 lobed and in pairs up the stem 4–18 cm long and 1.5–8 cm wide. It has yellow to orange-yellow daisy flowers about 2 cm.

The flowers are held above the leaves on short leaf stalks. Seeds are elongated, brown 4–5 mm long. The amount of seed per flowers varies greatly.

Life cycle

Flowers mostly spring to autumn but will flower all year round. Most reproduction is vegetative, from stems nodes.

Methods of spread

Singapore daisy produces variable amounts of seeds but is mainly spread by cuttings via slashing and pruning.

Habitat and distribution

Singapore daisy is a garden escapee and native of tropical America. It prefers moist areas on a range of soil types. It can be found in gardens, parks, bushland, disturbed areas, along roadsides, lawns and footpaths. It is becoming a problem by invading wetlands, irrigated areas and around drains.

It can be found in South East Queensland and coastal areas of northern and Central Queensland.

Control

Managing Singapore daisy

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks posed by Singapore daisy. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling Singapore daisy.

Table 1. Herbicides for control of Singapore daisy

Situation	Herbicide	Rate		Comments
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Nufarm Associate)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	Registered	Spray thoroughly to wet all foliage, but not to cause run-off. Minimise contact with desirable species.
Native conservation areas, pastoral grazing land, industrial sites such as railways, roadways, and utility rights-of-way	Aminocyclopyrachlor 240 g/L (e.g. Method 240 SL)	200–500 mL per 100 L water		Spot spray Apply with handgun, or a hand-held or backpack sprayer. Use sufficient spray volume to thoroughly and uniformly wet target plant.
Natural ecosystems (non-agricultural)	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo)	1:50 (glyphosate:water)	APVMA permit PER12363 for use by officers/contractors of government agencies, QPWS, or NRM groups.	Aerial spot spray from helicopter or unmanned aircraft vehicles.
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo) + Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate)	1:50 glyphosate + 1.5 g metsulfuron-methyl /10 L		

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

Fact sheets are available from biosecurity.qld.gov.au. The control methods recommended 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, the department does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

As Singapore daisy likes to establish in disturbed areas, pre-plan revegetation of the area you are clearing. Take extra care when mowing or slashing around areas planted where Singapore daisy is planted so small fragments are not spread to other locations.

Physical control

Hand-pull and dig up runners. The plant will regrow from the smallest cutting so dispose of waste carefully. Either burn waste or put into a black plastic bag and place in the sun for a few days before putting into the refuse bin. Repeated hand pulling will be required.

Herbicide control

There are two herbicides registered to control Singapore daisy. Permit PER12363 also allows aerial spraying to control Singapore daisy in natural ecosystems. See Table 1 for treatment options.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under the permit PER12363 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit apvma.gov.au.

More information

For more information contact your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

