

# Knobweed

*Hyptis capitata*



Photos courtesy Colin Wilson

A native of Central America, knobweed grows in disturbed areas in full sunlight on heavy soils retaining above average moisture.

It usually occurs as a common weed of roadsides, creek banks, cultivated headlands and run-down pastures. It is not generally a weed of rainforest as it requires light to germinate.

Spread is mainly by seed adhering to animals, people and vehicles. Seed is also dispersed via water.

## Declaration details

Knobweed is a not 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.

## Description and general information

An erect, aromatic, robust herb with several quadrangular branching stems 60–250 cm high.

Leaves are bright green, opposite and widely spaced on stems. They grow up to 12 cm long and 5 cm wide, taper at both ends and have margins irregularly toothed.

Small, white flowers appear in compact globular heads about 1.5 cm diameter on stalks to 5 cm long in leaf axils.

Fruit is a four-lobed capsule dividing into four seed-like nutlets which, when ripe, rattle when the plant is shaken.



Queensland Government

## Control

### Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations in bushland, taking care to remove all rootstock. Any seedheads should be collected and burnt on site. Larger colonies can be slashed before flowering. Treat the young regrowth treated with a suitable herbicide.

### Herbicide control

2,4-D amine is the active ingredient of herbicides registered for the control of knobweed in Queensland.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

**Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of knobweed**

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spray	2,4-D (500 g/L)	22 ml per 15 L water (seedlings) 42 ml per 15 L water (later stages of plant's growth)	Registered for use	Use herbicide in accordance with label directions
Spot spray	2,4-D (625 g/L)	18 ml per 15 L water (seedlings) 34 ml per 15 L water (later stages of plant's growth)	Registered for use	Use herbicide in accordance with label directions

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

Source: PER11463

## Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

## Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at [www.deedi.qld.gov.au](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au)).

Fact sheets are available from Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) service centres and our Business Information Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [www.deedi.qld.gov.au](http://www.deedi.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, DEEDI does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.