

# South-East Asian wait-a-while

*Caesalpinia decapetalia*



Native to India and South-East Asia, South-East Asian wait-a-while can invade forest margins and gaps, roadsides and watercourses to form impenetrable thickets. Its trailing branches root where they touch the ground, but the main cause of its spread is when humans, water and animals disperse the large seeds.

## Declaration details

South-East Asian wait-a-while 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.



Queensland Government

## Description and general information

South-East Asian wait-a-while is a robust, thorny evergreen shrub 2–4 m high or a climber to 20 m often forming dense thickets.

Its bark is rough at the base of the plant and smoother cream-green above. Stems are prickly and densely covered with tiny, golden hairs. It has dark-green leaves that are paler beneath, bipinnate and up to 300 mm long. Leaflets are 7–18 mm long and arranged in pairs along a prickly rachis. Flowers are white to pale yellow in elongated, erect clusters 10–35 cm long. Brown woody pods are flattened, unsegmented, smooth and have a prominent thorn-like beak.

## Control

### Manual control

Hand-pull or uproot seedlings and saplings. If larger plants are slashed or cut down they readily coppice, so either dig up the entire rootstock or apply a suitable herbicide to regrowth when it is actively growing (see below).

### Herbicide control

There is only one chemical registered for use on South-East Asian wait-a-while in various situations in Queensland.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

**Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of South-East Asian wait-a-while**

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Situation	Registration status	Comments
Hand spray	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg	10 g/100 L water	Land—commercial, industrial and public Pastures—native Rights of way	Registered	Read label instructions prior to use

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

Source: Infopest 2009

## Follow-up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any 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.