

Invasive plants and animals

Yellow guava

Psidium guajava



The problem

Yellow guava is native to tropical America. As an environmental weed it has become locally naturalised in bushland and coastal areas in Queensland. Yellow guava is a serious environmental weed in six other countries, being described as the third most prominent invasive alien woody plant along watercourses in coastal belts in South Africa.

Yellow guava is known to form dense stands, and its seeds are distributed by birds, mammals, livestock and people. Its fruits have traditionally been used for juices and jams and are still used commercially. Adding to its undesirable status, the yellow guava is host to the papaya fruit fly in north Queensland. This makes removal and control of yellow guava a high priority.

Description

Yellow guava is a small tree up to 10 m in height. It has spreading branches, and characteristic copper coloured bark which flakes away to reveal the pale green layer beneath. The wide green leaves are oblong in shape, leathery, aromatic when crushed and downy on the underside. Leaf dimensions are 7–15 cm long and 3–5 cm wide. The flowers are creamy white, and shed their petals to leave a tuft of yellow tipped stamens. The rounded fruits have yellow skins when ripe, with pinkish red flesh, and can be between 5–10 cm in length.

Management strategies

Control of guavas can be difficult. Cut stems will re-shoot, and guavas can sucker from their roots.

Declaration details

Yellow guava 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.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF YELLOW GUAVA

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Basal bark	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	2 L per 60 L diesel	Registered	Cut stems will reshoot, and regrowth may occur from roots of the main tree. Guava can resucker away from the parent plant.

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