

#### Building Australia's best regional community



# Easter Cassia

# Senna pendula var. glabrata

Easter cassia is native to South America. Introduced and sold as an ornamental garden plant, it is regarded as highly invasive in Queensland and is found in waterways, disturbed sites, roadsides and urban bushland. Easter cassia is very common in urban gardens, which can quickly grow over adjacent vegetation as it grows.

The Easter cassia produces seed pods which are filled with black seeds that germinate readily and remain viable for up to 10 years.

#### Management

Seeds are often dispersed in illegally dumped garden waste or through the movement of water (e.g. heavy rainfall).

Cutting the stump and the application of herbicide is effective for larger plants, with hand-pulling of small seedlings proving successful if the entire tap-root is removed.

#### Description

Senna pendula grows as a shrub up to 5m tall. Leaves grow in alternate formation, in a dull green with a gold margin, containing three to six leaflets. The stems may be sparsely hairy and grow in a zigzag pattern.

Around Easter, the plant produces masses of bright, yellow flowers. The fruits are cylindrical pods, 10-20cm long, 6-12cm wide, which turn from green to brown as they mature.

## **Further information**

*Council's Land Protection Officers are happy to provide further information and assistance by phoning the Call Centre on 1300 883 699.* 

1300 883 699 bundaberg.qld.gov.au



#### Legal requirements

Easter cassia is locally declared in the Bundaberg Region under Bundaberg Regional Council's *Biosecurity Plan & Local Law No.3.* They must not be given away, sold or released into the environment without a permit. Further information can be found in Council's *Biosecurity Plan.* 

### Table 1. Control methods for Easter Cassia

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
<b>Cut stump</b> <i>Large plants (1-5m in height)</i>	Glyphosate 360g/L	Product undiluted	Paint stump immediately after cutting
Hand removal Small plants (less than 1m in height)	Glyphosate 360g/L	Product undiluted	Paint any remaining root material immediately after hand removal

#### Cut stump

Make a horizontal cut as close to ground as possible, with secateurs, loppers or pruning saw. Immediately apply herbicide to the exposed flat stump surface using a paint brush or similar.

#### Hand removal

Gently remove any fruits and seeds and place them in a bag. Hold stem at ground level. Rock plant back and forth to loosen roots before pulling it out. Tap roots to dislodge any soil. Treat any root system remaining in the ground with herbicide using a paint brush or similar.



#### References

"Easter Cassia Fact Sheet", Moreton Bay Regional Council "Easter Cassia Fact Sheet", Gold Coast City Council

1300 883 699 bundaberg.qld.gov.au