

Centro

Centrosema pubescens



Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Sugar Experimental Stations

Native to South America, centro is now an established pasture plant and a widespread weed of cane fields, roadside banks and other disturbed areas.

Legal requirements

Centro is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

A vigorous twining perennial herb, centro forms a tangled mat about 50 cm deep or grows up shrubs to 3 m or more.

Dark green leaves are trifoliate with leaflets about 2 cm long and 1–1.5 cm wide and covered with fine, downy hairs.

Large mauve pea flowers grow in groups of one to several at the end of slender stalks from the leaf axils. Pods are long, 7.5–15 cm, flat and brown when ripe, holding up to 20 brownish-red seeds with black streaks.



Control

Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent reshooting.

Herbicide control

There is only one herbicide (glufosinate-ammonium) registered for use on centro in non-agricultural situations in Queensland.

Permit No. PER11463 allows the use of various herbicides for the control of centro in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under PER11463 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit www.apvma.gov.au

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 on 13 25 23 or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of centro

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Commercial and industrial areas, forest plantations, rights-of-way and other non-agricultural areas. Fencelines in agricultural areas.	Glufosinate-ammonium 200 g/L (e.g. Basta)	500 mL per 100 L clean water	Registered for use	Spot spray (when plants are actively growing). NOTE: an eight-week withholding period applies in some situations.
	Dicamba 200 g/L	500 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water plus wetting agent	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023	Foliar spray
	Dicamba 500 g/L (e.g. Kamba 500)	200 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water		

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

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.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, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

