

Biosecurity Eradication Plans

BELLYACHE BUSH (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)

Eradication Plan

Guidance aligned with the Gladstone Regional Council Biosecurity plan

This guide provides general information that landholders may find useful when managing Bellyache Bush on their property

Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Bellyache Bush is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Bellyache Bush is a fast-spreading, toxic shrub that can form dense thickets, reduce pasture quality, and spread along creeks, drainage lines, and disturbed soil. All parts of the plant are poisonous to livestock, pets, and people.		
Identification	• Shrub 1–3 m tall • Three-lobed leaves (often reddish) • Reddish stems • Small maroon flowers • Green seed pods that burst when ripe.		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	• Plants can flower and produce seeds for much of the year • Mature pods burst and spread seeds, which also move via water, animals, machinery, and soil • Seeds can remain viable for several years • Ongoing monitoring helps reduce reinfestation. Best treated during active growth, typically after rainfall and before seed set.		
General Considerations	• Wear gloves and eye protection (sap can irritate skin) • Avoid spraying in windy conditions • Clean tools, boots, and machinery before leaving the area to reduce the chance of spreading seeds • Avoid moving soil or plant material from infested areas • Check new stock, feed, or soil products to reduce the chance of bringing in new weeds.		
Management Options	Mechanical options: • Pulling out small plants when soil is moist • Removing roots to reduce regrowth • Double bagging seed pods/plant matter to limit spread Chemical options: • Using registered herbicides according to the label • Foliar spray		
Follow up	Check the area again after rain or each season to look for new seedlings or regrowth.		
Hygiene	To help reduce spread, clean tools, boots, and machinery before leaving the site and bag any plant material.		
Herbicide Examples	• Grazon Extra® – Foliar spray during active growth • Metsulfuron-methyl – Foliar spray during active growth		
Safety Notes	Keep children and pets away from treated areas. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional Property Notes	Location: _____	Size: _____	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy
	Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank		Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult
Date Observed		Photos Taken	Yes / No
Follow up dates			
Contractor (If used)	Name (optional): _____ Company (optional): _____ Date of work: _____		

Further information is available on the Gladstone Regional Council website.

MESQUITE (*Prosopis spp.*)

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Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Mesquite is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Mesquite is a deep-rooted, thorny shrub or tree that forms dense thickets, restricts access, reduces pasture productivity and water availability, and injures livestock and people. It commonly invades pastures, riparian areas, roadsides and disturbed sites. Early detection and eradication are critical due to rapid spread and long-lived seed banks.		
Identification	- Shrub or small tree (up to 15 m) - Sharp straight or curved thorns on branches - Fern-like leaves with multiple leaflets - Cream to yellow cylindrical flower spikes - Long, narrow pods containing hard seed.		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	- Produces hard coated seed pods - Seed spread by animals, water, vehicles and soil - Long lived seed bank triggered by rain or disturbance. Treat during active growth following rain.		
General Considerations	- Wear PPE; sharp thorns can injure people, livestock and tyres - Avoid spreading seed via soil, machinery or fodder - Do not disturb plants unnecessarily - Clean down equipment before leaving infested areas - Remove or treat felled material to prevent regrowth - Do not move pods, timber or soil from infested areas - Dispose of material at approved facilities where required		
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Limited use): - Suitable only for very small infestations - Remove entire plant including root crown - Disturbance may stimulate germination from the seed bank  Mechanical control alone is not recommended for established infestations. Chemical Control (Preferred method): Basal bark – small to medium plants Cut-stump – larger plants where felling is required Foliar spray – seedlings and regrowth Stem injection – large trees or sensitive sites Only use registered herbicides and apply in accordance with label instructions and legislation.		
Follow up	Check the area every 3-6 months treat seedlings or regrowth immediately. Ongoing monitoring may be required for several years due to seed longevity. Keep livestock and people away from treated areas.		
Hygiene	To help reduce spread, clean tools, boots, and machinery before leaving the site, avoid moving soil from infested sites and bag any plant material.		
Herbicide Examples	Metsulfuron-methyl – Foliar (seedlings & regrowth) Glyphosate (high-strength) – Cut-stump or stem injection	Access® – Basal bark or cut-stump Grazon extra – Foliar spraying	
Safety Notes	Keep children, pets and livestock away from treated areas. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional	Location: _____	Size: _____	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy
Property Notes	Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank		Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult
Date Observed			Photos Taken Yes / No
Follow up dates			
Contractor (If used)	Name (optional): _____ Company (optional): _____ Date of work: _____		

Further information is available on the Gladstone Regional Council website.

HARRISSIA CACTUS (*Harrisia martinii*, *H. tortuosa* and *H. regelii*)

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Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Harrisia cactus is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Harrisia cactus is a fast-spreading, spiny cactus that forms dense infestations, restricts access, reduces pasture productivity, and injures livestock, pets, wildlife and people. It commonly invades pastures, roadsides, rail corridors, creek banks, disturbed sites and coastal areas. Early detection and complete control are critical, as fragments and seed readily spread.		
Identification	- Upright or sprawling succulent cactus - Cylindrical segmented stems (up to 5–7 cm diameter) - Sharp spines along ribs - Large white to pale pink trumpet-shaped flowers (night-flowering) - Red to pink fleshy fruit containing numerous black seeds.		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	- Flowers and fruits mainly during warmer months - Seeds spread by birds, animals, water, vehicles, machinery and dumped garden waste - Stem fragments readily re-root if left on the ground - Seeds can remain viable in soil for several years. Treat during active growth following rain.		
General Considerations	- Wear thick gloves, long sleeves, eye protection and sturdy footwear - Spines can penetrate skin, boots and vehicle tyres - Avoid moving or slashing plants unless material is fully contained - Never dump cactus material in bushland, drains or general waste - Avoid control during heavy rain to prevent spread of fragments - Bag all treated or removed plant material.		
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Small infestations): - Carefully dig out entire plants, ensuring all roots and stem fragments are removed - Conduct work when soil is dry to reduce breakage - Collect all plant material immediately  Mechanical control is not recommended for large infestations due to high risk of fragment spread. Chemical Control (Preferred control): Foliar spray – when actively growing Use only registered herbicides and follow label requirements.		
Follow up	Check the area again after rain and every 3-6 months treat seedlings or regrowth immediately. Ongoing monitoring may be required for several years due to seed persistence.		
Hygiene	To help reduce spread, clean tools, boots, and machinery before leaving the site, avoid moving soil from infested sites and bag any plant material.		
Herbicide Examples	Glyphosate (high-strength) – Cut-stump or stem injection Starane™ Advanced – Foliar and stem application		
Safety Notes	Keep children, pets and livestock away from treated areas. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional	Location: _____	Size: _____	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy
Property Notes	Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank		Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult
Date Observed	Photos Taken		Yes / No
Follow up dates			
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PRICKLY ACACIA (*Vachellia nilotica*)

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Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Prickly Acacia is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Prickly acacia is a hardy, thorny tree that forms dense infestations, restricts stock access, reduces pasture productivity and biodiversity, and degrades riparian areas. It commonly invades pastures, floodplains, creek lines and disturbed land. Early detection and eradication are critical, as it spreads rapidly and produces long-lived seeds.		
Identification	• Shrub or small tree (up to 10 m) • Pale-grey to dark bark with paired straight thorns • Fine, feathery (bipinnate) leaves • Bright yellow, ball-shaped flowers • Thick, grey-brown seed pods with hard seeds		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	• Produces large numbers of hard coated seeds • Seed spread by livestock, wildlife, water and machinery • Seeds remain viable after digestion by animals • Long-lived seed bank germinates after rain or disturbance. Best treated during active growth, after rainfall and before seed set.		
General Considerations	• Wear PPE; thorns can injure people and livestock • Avoid spreading seed via soil, vehicles, machinery or fodder • Do not disturb plants unnecessarily • Clean down equipment before leaving infested areas • Remove or treat felled material to prevent regrowth • Do not move pods, timber or soil from infested areas • Dispose of material at approved facilities where required.		
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Limited use): • Suitable only for isolated or very small plants • Remove entire plant including root system • Soil disturbance may stimulate seed germination  Mechanical control alone is not recommended for established infestations. Chemical Control (Preferred method): • Basal bark – small to medium plants • Cut-stump – larger plants where felling is required • Foliar spray – seedlings and regrowth • Stem injection – large trees or sensitive sites. Only use registered herbicides and apply in accordance with label instructions and legislation.		
Follow up	Check the area every 3-6 months treat seedlings or regrowth immediately. Ongoing monitoring may be required for several years due to seed longevity.		
Hygiene	To help reduce spread, clean tools, boots, and machinery before leaving the site, avoid moving contaminates soil and bag any plant material.		
Herbicide Examples	• Metsulfuron-methyl – Foliar (seedlings & regrowth) • Starane™ Advanced – Foliar spray	• Glyphosate (high-strength) – Cut-stump or stem injection • Access® – Basal bark or cut-stump	
Safety Notes	Keep children, pets and livestock away from treated areas. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional Property Notes	Location: _____ Size: _____ Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult	
Date Observed		Photos Taken	Yes / No
Follow up dates			
Contractor (If used)	Name (optional): _____ Company (optional): _____ Date of work: _____		

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WATER HYACINTH (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

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Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Water Hyacinth is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Water hyacinth is a fast-growing, free-floating aquatic plant that forms dense mats on waterways. These infestations restrict water flow, reduce water quality, impact irrigation and recreation, and severely degrade aquatic ecosystems. It commonly invades dams, creeks, rivers, wetlands and drains. Early detection and eradication are critical, as infestations can expand rapidly.		
Identification	- Free-floating aquatic plant with glossy green leaves - Swollen, spongy leaf stalks enabling flotation - Fibrous dark roots hanging below the plant - Showy purple to mauve flowers with a yellow centre.		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	- Reproduces rapidly by stolons (daughter plants) - Also produces seed, viable for several years - Spread by water movement, flooding and dumping - Fragments spread via boats, trailers, machinery and livestock access.		
Treat during warm periods of active growth.			
General Considerations	- Wear PPE when handling plants and working near water - Avoid breaking plants into fragments - Do not disturb infestations unnecessarily - Prevent spread via boats, trailers and equipment - Remove or treat all plant material - Do not dump plants on banks or into waterways - Dispose of material at approved facilities where required.		
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Limited use): - Suitable only for very small infestations - Remove all plants and fragments - High risk of spread if improperly managed  Mechanical control alone is not recommended for established infestations Chemical Control (Preferred method): Foliar spray – actively growing plants - Apply evenly to avoid fragmentation. Only use registered herbicides and apply in accordance with label instructions and legislation.		
Follow up	Inspect treated waterbodies every 3-6 months and retreat and regrowth promptly. Ongoing monitoring is essential due to rapid growth and seed persistence.		
Hygiene	Clean tools, trailers, pumps and footwear before leaving the site. Ensure no plant material or fragments are transported to new locations.		
Herbicide Examples	Roundup Biactive – Foliar spraying		
Safety Notes	Keep children, pets and livestock away from treated areas where required. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional Property Notes	Location: _____	Size: _____	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy
	Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank		Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult
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Follow up dates			
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MADEIRA VINE (*Anredera cordifolia*)

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Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Madeira Vine is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Madeira vine is a fast-growing, perennial climbing vine that smothers native vegetation, trees and infrastructure, reduces biodiversity, and degrades riparian and urban areas. It commonly invades gardens, bushland, creek lines, roadsides and disturbed sites. Early detection and eradication are critical, as reproduction occurs mainly through vegetative spread.		
Identification	- Vigorous climbing vine with fleshy stems - Thick, glossy, heart-shaped leaves - Produces numerous aerial and underground tubers - Small, creamy-white fragrant flowers in drooping clusters		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	- Spreads primarily via aerial and underground tubers - Tubers spread by dumping, soil movement, water and machinery - Tubers readily reshoot after disturbance - Long-lived tubers allow persistence if not completely removed. Treat during active growth before tuber build-up.		
General Considerations	- Wear PPE when handling vines and tubers - Avoid breaking or dropping tubers during control - Do not disturb plants unnecessarily - Remove or treat all tubers and vine material - Do not dump garden waste or soil in bushland - Dispose of material at approved facilities where required		
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Limited use): - Suitable only for isolated or very small infestations - Carefully remove all vines, roots and tubers - Missed tubers will reshoot  Mechanical control alone is not recommended for established infestations. Chemical Control (Preferred method): Foliar spray – actively growing vines Basal bark or cut-and-paint – thicker stem Cut-stump – where vines are severed from host trees. Only use registered herbicides and apply in accordance with label instructions and legislation.		
Follow up	Inspect treated sites every 3-6 months and retreat any regrowth immediately. Ongoing follow-up is essential due to tuber persistence.		
Hygiene	Clean tools, boots, vehicles and equipment before leaving the site. Avoid moving contaminants soil or vegetation.		
Herbicide Examples	Grazon – Foliar spraying	Starane™ Advanced – Foliar spraying	
Safety Notes	Keep people and pets away from treated areas. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional Property Notes	Location: _____ Size: _____ Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult	
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Follow up dates			
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FIREWEED (*Senecio madagascariensis*)

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Section	Information for Landholders		
Classification	Fireweed is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).		
About the Plant	Fireweed is a short-lived perennial or biennial herb that invades pastures, roadsides, disturbed land and coastal areas. It reduces pasture productivity, competes with desirable species and is toxic to livestock, particularly cattle and horses. Early detection and control are critical to prevent seed spread and establishment.		
Identification	- Erect, branched plant up to 60 cm high - Narrow, dark green leaves with serrated or lobed edges - Bright yellow daisy-like flowers - White fluffy seed head similar to dandelion		
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	- Germinates mainly in autumn and spring - Produces large quantities of wind-dispersed seed - Seed spread by wind, vehicles, machinery, livestock and fodder - Short-lived seed bank, but rapid reinfestation occurs if uncontrolled. Treat early, before flowering and seed set		
General Considerations	- Wear PPE when handling plants - Prevent seed spread during control activities - Avoid disturbing plants when in seed - Clean down vehicles and equipment before leaving infested areas - Remove or treat plants before seed set - Dispose of material at approved facilities where required.		
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Limited use): - Suitable only for isolated plants - Hand pull or hoe, ensuring roots are removed - Best undertaken before flowering and seed set  Ineffective for widespread infestations Chemical Control (Preferred method): Foliar spray – when actively growing - Treat seedlings, rosettes and flowering plants early Only use registered herbicides and apply in accordance with label instructions and legislation.		
Follow up	Inspect treated areas every 3-6 months and retreat any new plants immediately. Ongoing monitoring is required due to staggered germination.		
Hygiene	Clean tools, boots, vehicles and machinery before leaving the site. Avoid moving contaminates soil, plant material or fodder.		
Herbicide Examples	Metsulfuron-methyl – Foliar 2,4-D amine or ester – Foliar	Grazon™ Extra – Foliar (pasture situations)	
Safety Notes	Fireweed is toxic to livestock. Keep animals off infested or treated areas where required. Follow all label and SDS instructions.		
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .		
Optional Property Notes	Location: _____ Size: _____ Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult	
Date Observed		Photos Taken	Yes / No
Follow up dates			
Contractor (If used)	<i>Name (optional):</i> _____ <i>Company (optional):</i> _____ <i>Date of work:</i> _____		

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CHINEE APPLE (*Ziziphus mauritiana*)

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Section	Information for Landholders	
Classification	Chinee Apple is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014 . Landholders are responsible for taking reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks on their property (General Biosecurity Obligation).	
About the Plant	Chinee apple is a thorny shrub or small tree that forms dense thickets, restricts access, degrades pasture and riparian areas, and impacts native vegetation. It commonly invades pastures, creek lines, floodplains, roadsides and disturbed land. Early detection and eradication are critical, as infestations expand rapidly if unmanaged.	
Identification	- Shrub or small tree up to 10 m tall - Zig-zag branches with sharp thorns - Glossy green, oval leaves with a pale underside - Small greenish-yellow flowers - Round yellow-brown fruit containing a hard seed	
Life Cycle and How It Spreads	- Produces abundant fruit and hard-coated seed - Seed spread by livestock, feral animals, birds and water - Seed remains viable after passing through animals - Long-lived seed bank with germination after rain. Best treated during active growth, usually after rainfall.	
General Considerations	- Wear PPE - thorns can injure people, livestock and tyres - Avoid spreading seed via soil, vehicles, machinery or fodder - Do not disturb plants unnecessarily - Clean down equipment before leaving infested areas - Remove or treat felled material to prevent regrowth - Do not move fruit, timber or soil from infested areas - Dispose of material at approved facilities where required.	
Management Options	Mechanical Control (Limited use): - Suitable only for very small or isolated plants - Remove entire plant including root crown - Soil disturbance may trigger seed germination  Mechanical control alone is not recommended for established infestations Chemical Control (Preferred method): Basal bark – small to medium plants Cut-stump – larger plants where felling is required Foliar spray – seedlings and regrowth Stem injection – large trees or sensitive sites Only use registered herbicides and apply in accordance with label instructions and legislation.	
Follow up	Inspect treated areas every 3-6 months control regrowth or seedlings immediately. Ongoing monitoring may be required for several years due to seed persistence.	
Hygiene	Clean tools, boots, and machinery before leaving the site. Avoid moving contaminates soil or plant material.	
Herbicide Examples	Grazon – Foliar spray Starane™ Advanced - Foliar spray	Metsulfuron-methyl – Foliar (seedlings & regrowth) Access® – Basal bark or cut-stump
Safety Notes	Keep children, pets and livestock away from treated areas. Follow all label and SDS instructions.	
Support	Council can help with plant identification and general information about management options. Contact 07 4970 0700 If you believe you have found prohibited matter , contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 .	
Optional Property Notes	Location: _____ Size: _____ Topography: Flat / Slope / Creek bank	Density: Scattered / Light / Moderate / Heavy Access: Easy / Moderate / Difficult
Date Observed		Photos Taken Yes / No
Follow up dates		
Contractor (If used)	Name (optional): _____ Company (optional): _____ Date of work: _____	

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