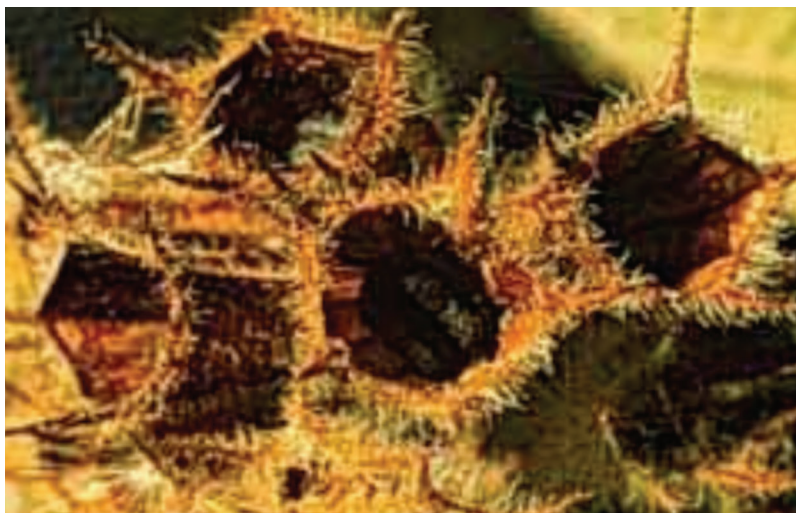


# Horehound

*Hyptis suaveolens*



Photos courtesy Colin Wilson



Horehound is native to tropical South America and is extensively naturalised in northern Queensland. It is common along roadsides and in cultivated paddocks and overgrazed areas; however, it is not a invasive plant of rainforest interiors as it requires light to germinate.

Seeds provide the only means of spread and are primarily spread by animals, machinery and other vehicles, and contaminated hay.

## Legal requirements

Horehound 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 measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

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

## Description

Horehound is an annual, erect herb growing up to 1.5 m high with four-angled stems that are hairy on the upper parts.

Leaves are opposite, dull green, stalked, slightly toothed and heart-shaped—pointed at the tip and rounded at the base with an undersurface that is densely hairy. Leaves have a strong mint smell when crushed.



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Flowers are small, purple-mauve, about 5 mm long and usually arranged in clusters in the forks of the upper leaves of the plant.

Fruit is a lobed, two-sectioned burr, each with two small, dark brown, shield-shaped seeds.

## Control

### Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations in bushland. Hand pull prior to seeding when the soil is wet. Collect heads into bags for disposal at the dump.

### Herbicide control

2,4-D is registered for control of horehound (as Chinese mint) in sugar cane only. Consult labels for details.

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of horehound in other situations in Queensland. However, a permit allows the use of a range of 2,4-D and other herbicide products to control horehound as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this permit (PER11463) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit [apvma.gov.au](http://apvma.gov.au).

### Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

### More information

More information is available from your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of horehound**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas.	2,4-D 300 g/L (e.g. Conquest Amine 300 Selective Herbicide)	625 mL per 1 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Spot spray young plants
	2,4-D 625 g/L (e.g. Ken-Amine 625)	300 mL per 1 L water		
	2,4-D 300 g/L + picloram 75 g/L (e.g. Tordon 75-D)	1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent		Spot spray older plants

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

