

# Eve's pin cactus

*Austrocylindropuntia subulata*



Eve's pin cactus is an upright, branching shrub that can be found in south east Queensland. It can displace native vegetation, destroy native pastures and hinder movement of animals and people.

Possession, propagation and distribution of Eve's pin cactus as an ornamental plant are not considered reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimize the biosecurity risks posed by Eve's pin cactus.

In Queensland it is illegal to sell Eve's pin cactus on Gumtree, eBay, Facebook, at markets, nurseries or any marketplace.

## Legal requirements

Eve's pin cactus is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. You must not give away, sell or release into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).



**Queensland**  
Government



At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on Eve's pin cactus. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

## Description

Eve's pin cactus is a branching shrub up to 3 m high. Branches are 4–5 cm in diameter. Stem segments are glossy green, especially around the areoles and margins. Often more than 2 cm thick and 5–25 cm long. Wide leaves are evergreen and elongated, up to 30–60 or 120 mm long, curved, fleshy and persistent.

Spines are grayish-white, with no papery sheath. There are 1–4 spines per areole, mostly 35–70 mm long and additional smaller spines (up to five) develop in successive years. Flowers are pink, up to 6 cm long. Fruit are oblong, egg-shaped, large, solitary or in small chains of 2–4, green and 50–135 mm long.

## Life cycle

Eve's pin cactus reproduces vegetatively via stem segments and seeds. Most reproduction is from broken stem fragments. Seed viability is unknown.

## Methods of spread

Eve's pin cactus can be spread by people selling it or giving it away as an ornamental plant. It can also spread by animals, vehicles and machinery. The stem segments break off easily from the parent plant. It can also spread by floodwaters and in dumped garden waste. The fruit are eaten by birds and other animals and the seeds then spread in their droppings.

## Habitat and distribution

Eve's pin cactus is native to the Andes of Peru. It is naturalised mainly in South Australia, Western Australia and Lightning Ridge. In Queensland, Eve's pin cactus has only ever been recorded in cultivation (i.e. being illegally kept) and there are no records of naturalisation

Eve's pin cactus prefers semi-arid and arid rangeland environments. It can also be found backyards as an ornamental plant.

## Control

### Managing Eve's pin cactus

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks posed by Eve's pin cactus. Propagation of Eve's pin cactus to keep as an ornamental plant is not considered reasonable with reducing the risk of further spread of this invasive plant.

This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling Eve's pin cactus. The best control for Eve's pin cactus incorporates integrated management strategies, including herbicides, mechanical and physical methods.

## Physical control

Slashing and ploughing are not considered effective control as this can lead to further spread through establishment from stem fragments. Chip out, bag and burn any isolated plants or dispose of them at council-approved landfill tips.

Ensure that all tubers that can grow are removed and destroyed. Plant material must never be included with green waste.

## Biological control

There are no known biological control agents for Eve's pin cactus in Queensland.

## Herbicide control

Four permits allow the use of several herbicides and application methods to control Eve's pin cactus as invasive plants in various situations.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permits.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under the permits (PER90719, PER92459, PER92465 and PER92475), you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permits. To obtain a copy of these permits visit [apvma.gov.au](http://apvma.gov.au).

Landholders and contractors should check if the property is in a hazardous area as defined in the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966* prior to spraying.

## More information

For more information contact your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).



**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of Eve's pin cactus**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, fence lines, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L per 60 L diesel	APVMA permit PER92465 (Permit expires 30/11/2024)	Foliar spray Apply as a thorough foliar spray to all stems
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forests, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 600 g/L (e.g. Garlon)	3 L per 100 L water		
Native pastures, agricultural non-crop areas, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Metsun 600 Herbicide)	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Metsun 600 Herbicide)		
Non-crop areas, roadsides, fencelines and storage areas	MSMA 800 g/L (e.g. AC Militate Herbicide)	2.5 L per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER90719 (Permit expires 31/12/2028)	
Pastures, non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, domestic and public service areas and rights-of-way	Aminopyralid 8 g/L + picloram 100 g/L + triclopyr 300 g/L (e.g. Grazon Extra)	500 mL per 100 L water		
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forests, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 25 g/L (e.g. Tordon RegrowthMaster Herbicide)	2.5 L per 100 L water		
Pastures, roadsides, rights-of-way, bushland/native forests, agricultural non-crops areas, commercial and industrial areas, domestic and public service areas, vacant lots, wastelands	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 25 g/L (e.g. Tordon Regrowth Master)	Undiluted	APVMA permit PER92459 (Permit expires 31/08/2025)	Stem injection Apply 2 mL solution per 10 cm cut
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup)	Undiluted to 1:1 in water		
	Amitrole 250 g/L + Ammonium thiocyanate 220 g/L (e.g. Amitrole T)	Undiluted		Stem injection 1 mL injected into cuts at 3 cm spacing
Non-crop areas, including native vegetation, conservation areas, gullies, reserves and parks	Aminopyralid 4.47 g/L + picloram 44.7 g/L (e.g. Vigilant II)	Undiluted	APVMA permit PER92475 (Permit expires 31/11/2024)	Cut stump Apply 3 mm gel layer over each cut stem

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

