

# 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 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 centro. 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 and smothers shrubs up to 3 m high.

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.



**Queensland**  
Government

## 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 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 [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 centro**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Commercial and industrial areas, forest plantations, rights-of-way and other nonagricultural areas, fence lines 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 750 g/L (e.g. Nufarm Kamba 750 Herbicide)	130 mL per 100 L water for mature plants Up to 400 mL per 100 L water on regrowth	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Spot spray Apply using a minimum of 1500L/ha water Use a wetting agent as per label instructions for non-crop situations Consult label for critical use comments
	Dicamba 500 g/L (e.g. Genfarm Dicamba 500 Selective Herbicide)	200 mL per 100 L water for mature plants Up to 600 mL per 100 L water on regrowth		

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

