

# Knobweed

*Hyptis capitata*



Photos courtesy Colin Wilson

A native of Central America, knobweed grows in disturbed areas in full sunlight on heavy soils retaining above-average moisture.

It usually occurs along roadsides, creek banks, cultivated headlands and run-down pastures. It is spread mainly by seed adhering to animals, people and vehicles. Seed is also dispersed via water.

## Legal requirements

Knobweed 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 knobweed. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

## Description

An erect, aromatic, robust herb with several quadrangular branching stems, 60–250 cm high. Leaves are bright green, opposite and widely spaced on stems. They grow up to 12 cm long and 5 cm wide, taper at both ends and irregularly toothed margins.

Small, white flowers appear in compact globular heads about 1.5 cm in diameter on stalks up to 5 cm long in leaf axils. Fruit is a four-lobed capsule, dividing into four seed-like nutlets, that when ripe, rattle when the plant is shaken.



**Queensland  
Government**

## Control

### Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations in bushland, taking care to remove all rootstock. Any seedheads should be collected and burnt on site. Larger colonies can be slashed before flowering. Treat the young regrowth treated with a suitable herbicide.

### Herbicide control

2,4-D amine is the active ingredient of herbicides registered for the control of knobweed in Queensland.

## 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 knobweed**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Pastures, rights-of-way, industrial	2,4-D 625 g/L (e.g Ken-Amine 625)	320 mL per 100 L water	Spot spray young, actively growing plants ensuring thorough coverage
	2,4-D 700 g/L (e.g. Amicide Advance 700)	285 mL per 100 L water	

Note: The listed 2,4-D formulations are examples only. Other formulations are available. Check the label for the correct rate and critical comments.

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

