Calopo

Calopogonium mucunoides

Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Sugar Experimental Stations

Native to tropical America, calopo was introduced as a pasture legume but has low palatability. It is an aggressive creeper that can smother supporting vegetation, including sugar cane.

Legal requirements

Calopo 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 calopo species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Calopo is an annual, creeping vine with stems covered in brownish hairs. It has trifoliate leaves, 3–6 cm long, and leaflets that are rounded with dense hairs.

The pea-shaped flowers are pale bluish-purple with yellow-green centres arranged in clusters on stalks arising in leaf axils.

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Densely hairy pods are brown, narrow, flattened, constricted between the seeds and about 15 cm long. Each pod contains 5–7 brown or yellow seeds.

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 calopo in various agricultural and non-agricultural situations including rights-of-way, commercial, industrial and public land in Queensland.

Off-label use permit PER11463 allows other herbicides for the control of invasive plants 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 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.

Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth. These should be re-sprayed.

More information

More information is available from your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of calopo

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Commercial and industrial areas, forest plantations, rights-of way and other non-agricultural 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 Note: an eight-week withholding period applies in some situations
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/ native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, dunal and coastal areas	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 regrowth500	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/4/2027)	Spot spray Use a wetting agent as per label instructions for non-crop situations Consult label for critical use comments
	Dicamba 500 g/L (e.g. Kamba 500)	200 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 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		

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

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