

Peruvian primrose

Prohibited invasive plant

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- It is illegal to keep, cultivate, transport or sell peruvian primrose in Queensland.
- Terrestrial or partially submerged small shrub growing up to 3 m high.
- Can impact native wetland plants and destroy native wildlife habitat.
- Similar in appearance to *Ludwigia octovalvis*, *Ludwigia longifolia* and *Ludwigia peploides*.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

Native to South America, peruvian primrose (*Ludwigia peruviana*) is a small shrub that grows up to 3 m high. It is terrestrial or partially submerged, growing on the wet margins of waterbodies, in water to about 1.5 m deep, or on floating islands in much deeper water. Stems are dark green or brownish green, much branched, and hairy when young. Leaves are alternate, rarely opposite, ovate, 5–12 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, and hairy. Flowers are yellow with 4–6 petals, up to 3 cm wide. Fruit is reddish or brownish, 10–25 mm long, 6–10 mm wide. The numerous seeds are light brown and 0.6–0.8 mm long.

It grows on the margins of waterbodies, in water to about 1.5 m deep, or on floating islands in deeper water. Flowering occurs between late summer to autumn. Peruvian primrose produces thousands of sticky seeds, which are mainly dispersed by attaching to bird feathers. Seeds are also water and wind dispersed, and can germinate while floating.

Biosecurity risk

Peruvian primrose is a prohibited invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Peruvian primrose grows rapidly and can form dense stands in shallow, still or slowly flowing streams, wetlands and creek banks. These dense stands affect sedimentation patterns and the flow of water during floods. It has the potential to become a serious invasive plant if planted in aquariums or outdoor ponds. In some cases, recreational use of waterways could also be affected.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen peruvian primrose, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent peruvian primrose from spreading.

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

