

# Bamboo

*Phyllostachys* spp. and *Bambusa* spp.



Native to tropical and sub-tropical Asia, bamboos were introduced as an ornamental, and are often used as shelter belts or for erosion control. Dense stands of bamboo grow to the total exclusion of other vegetation in many different environments.

## Legal requirements

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

## Description

Bamboos are perennial, tall, woody grasses of varying heights of 2–15 m. They have hollow canes with nodes at intervals and alternate thick, grass-like leaves.

Shoots from buds of underground stems (rhizomes) spread and produce new canes either slowly (clumping bamboos) or rapidly (running bamboos). The former (e.g. *Bambusa* spp.) are less invasive of native vegetation and gardens than the latter (e.g. *Phyllostachys* spp.) in which rhizomes may grow as far as 1 m from the parent plant in the first year, the rate of growth increasing each year afterwards.

Each rhizome is capable of producing many new shoots along its length.

Flowers are usually insignificant and held on slender arching panicles.



**Queensland  
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# Control

## Manual control

Digging plants out can be a very difficult job and may require heavy equipment. Continuing removal of tops will usually be necessary due to the plant's resprouting; however, ongoing regular cutting or mowing will eventually kill most plants by exhausting their food reserves.

## Herbicide control

Various formulations containing glyphosate as their only active ingredient are registered for the control of *Bambusa* spp. in Queensland. Two permits also allow people generally to use glyphosate and flupropanate products to control other bamboo species as invasive plants in various situations.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under the permits (PER11463 and PER83165), 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).

When using herbicide treatment, do NOT allow spray drift onto susceptible crops and ornamentals and do NOT spray near desirable trees. Some trees and palms are extremely sensitive.

Palms such as cocos (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), cabbage tree (*Livistona australis*), fan (*Licuala* sp. and *Livistona* sp.), dwarf date (*Phoenix roebelenii*) and pony tail palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata*) are very susceptible to the herbicide flupropanate. The roots of these palms will readily take up the herbicide even when the treated bamboo is located 2–3 m from the nearest palm, resulting in palm death.

## Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

## 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 bamboo**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
<i>Bambusa</i> spp. only in various situations	Glyphosate various formulations	Consult label for correct rate for your formulation		Spot spray Remove tops of bamboo shoots and spot spray actively growing foliage and/or regrowth 1–2 m high or Cut stump Cut stems back to 20 cm high and immediately pour herbicide down the hollow stem and wet the cut
All bamboo species: Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas	Glyphosate 360 g/L	1 L per 100 L water Consult permit for rates for other formulations	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Spot spray Remove tops of bamboo shoots and spot spray actively growing foliage and/or regrowth 1–2 m high
	Glyphosate (e.g. Weedmaster Duo) and other formulations	1 L per 6 L water Consult permit for rates for other formulations		Cut stump Cut stems back to 20 cm high and immediately pour herbicide down the hollow stem and wet the cut
Running bamboo species Non-crop areas, rights-of-way, reserves and bushland	Flupropanate 745 g/L (e.g. Kenock, Tussock)	200 mL per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER83165 (expires 30/06/2025)	Restrictions apply to the use of flupropanate where livestock are grazed, including rights-of-way. In these situations, WITHHOLDING PERIODS APPLY <b>Please note: persons who can use the product under this permit: employees of, or persons under the direction of Biosecurity Queensland or local governments who are trained and experienced in the use of agricultural pesticides.</b>

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

Fact sheets are available from [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au). The control methods recommended should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the department does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

