

Mysore Thorn (*Caesalpinia decapetala*)

Mysore Thorn is a vigorous growing plant capable of climbing and engulfing native vegetation, fences, sheds, bridges and other infrastructure. It favours creeklines, riparian zones where it forms dense thickets restricting water flow, access and downstream movement of flood debris, leading to increased flood damage. Mysore Thorn is not limited to riparian zone and will invade pasture, roadside, bushland and other vital areas.

Mysore Thorn severely impacts biodiversity through restricting germination, reducing forest biomass by smothering native species and becoming the dominant species. It also restricts the movement of native fauna and the sprawling thickets provide habitat for foxes and other pest species.

The long spines of the Mysore Thorn can inflict serious injury to human and animals, both native and domestic. Mysore Thorn forms dense thickets restricting access of stock and machinery to vital areas like water, pastures and roads.

Description

Mysore Thorn is a perennial shrub to 2-4m or sprawling climber to 15m high that readily forms a dense impenetrable thicket. It has both tap and lateral roots.

Leaves are bi-pinnate and up to 300mm long. Leaflets are dark green above and pale beneath. Leaflets are approximately 8mm wide and covered with fine hairs. There are small prickles on the rachis.

Mysore Thorn has distinctive pale yellow flowers. Racemes that protrude up to 50 cm above the main plant. Flowers have prickles at the base. Flowering in winter - spring.

Mysore Thorn produces brown woody pods in spring - summer. The many seeds are easily spread by water and possibly rodents. The seed can remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years.

Control

Metsulfuron methyl based herbicides are currently registered for the control of Mysore Thorn, for best results apply when actively growing before flowering and use of a wetting agent.

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