

Townsville City

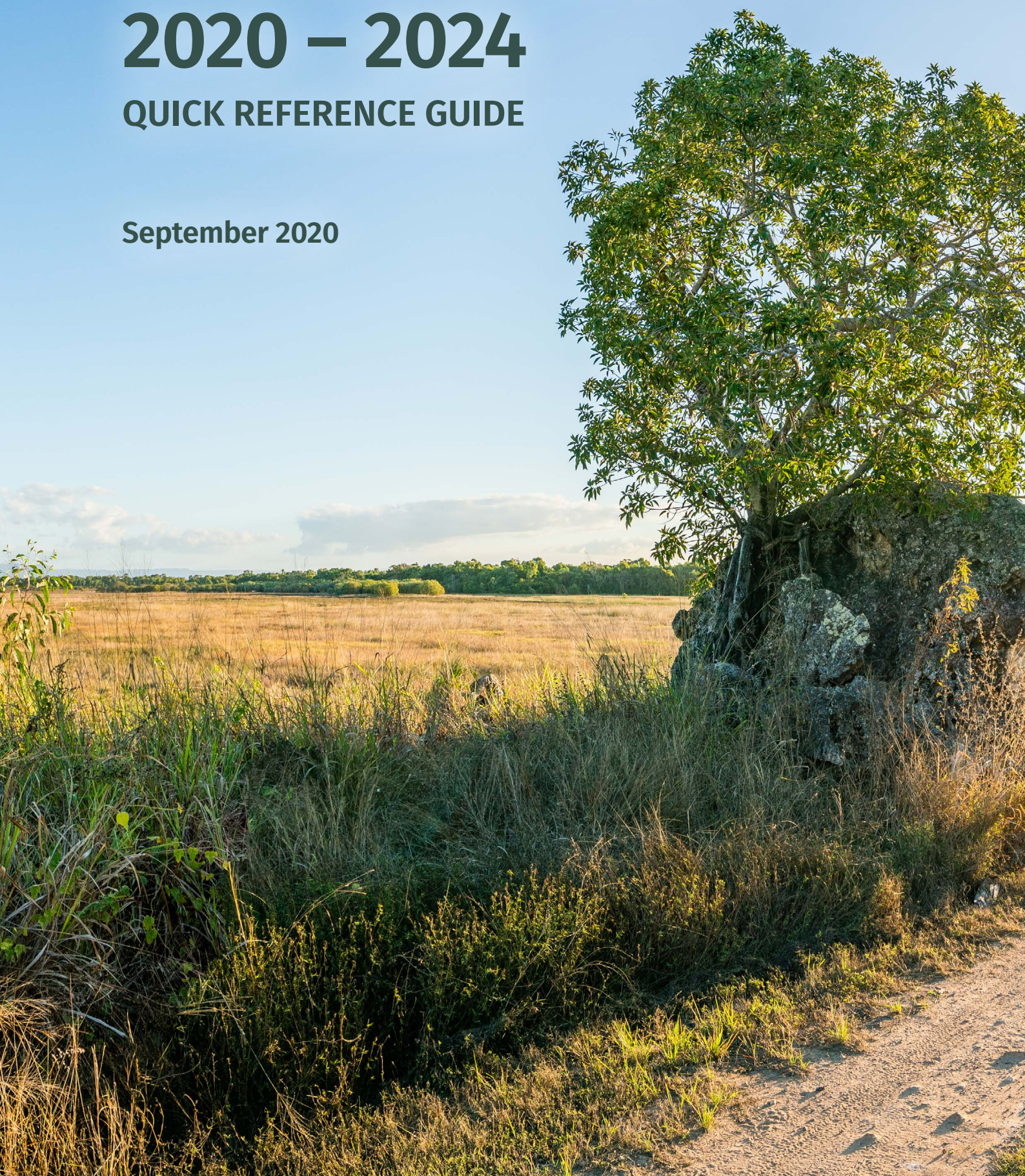


Biosecurity Plan

2020 – 2024

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

September 2020



Background

Townsville residents enjoy a great lifestyle supported by our natural environment. Feral animals and pest plants are non-native species that can affect our lifestyle and cause environmental and economic harm. The *Townsville Biosecurity Plan* drives local action to reduce the impacts of these pests.

This quick reference guide provides critical information from the full *Townsville Biosecurity Plan 2020-2024*. This is important information on the pest plant and animal threats in the Townsville region you need to be aware of.

More detailed information on a much larger number of pest species, what is being done to address them and what you can do to help can all be found in the *Townsville Biosecurity Plan 2020-2024*.

The full plan was developed with input from key state agencies, industry and community groups.

The full plan includes:

- An overview of the Townsville LGA, potential impacts of pest plants and animals, and legislation, strategies, plans and guides relevant to the plan
- A summary of how TCC and our partners developed and will implement the plan
- A strategic plan that describes Townsville's biosecurity objectives and strategies, defines responsibilities and how we measure success.
- Priority species plans for dozens of pest plants and animals with targeted strategic management actions.

For more information, or to find the full version of the biosecurity plan visit townsville.qld.gov.au or call 13 48 10

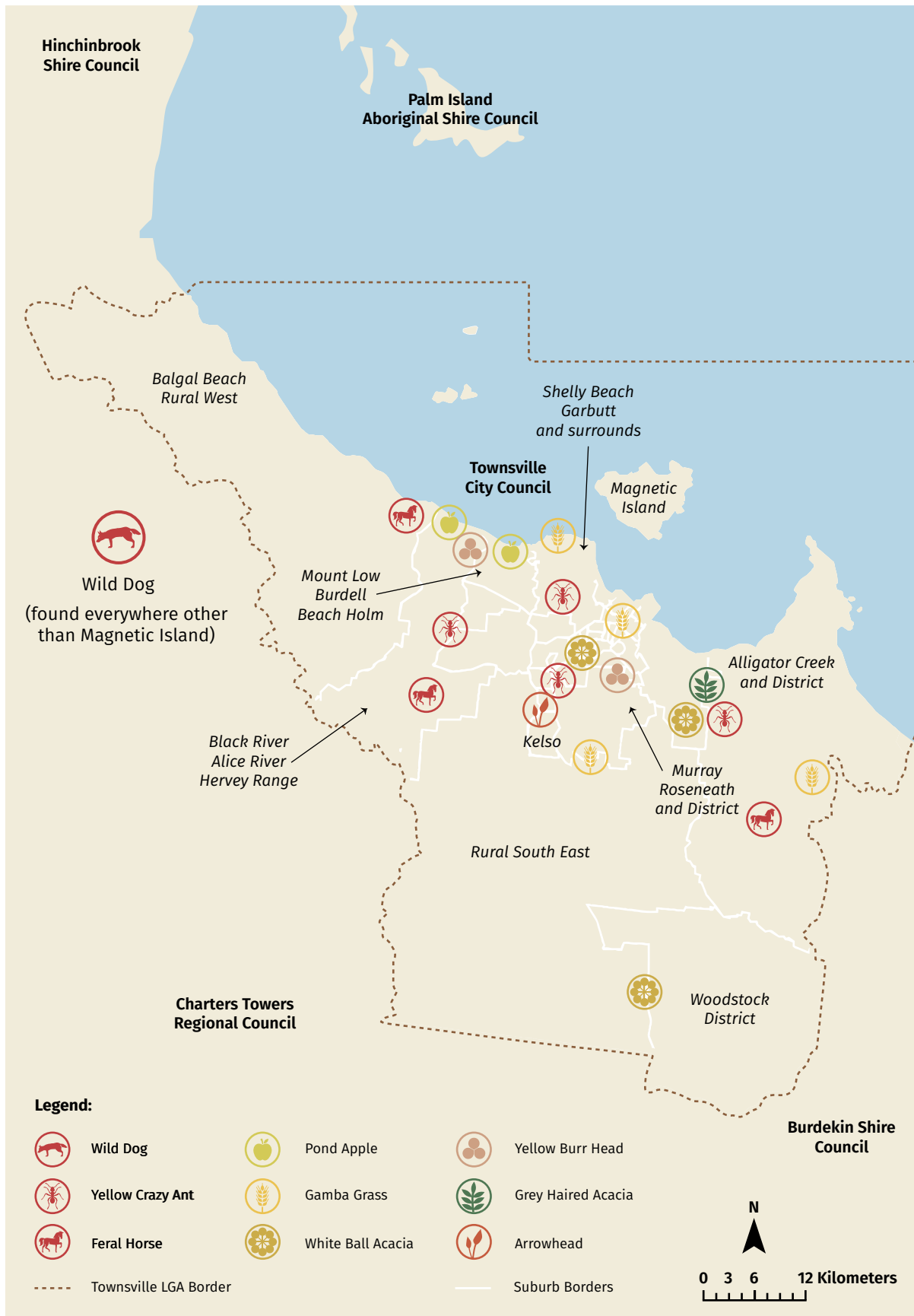
Refer to Queensland Government, Business Queensland website business.qld.gov.au for up to date information on best practice methods and factsheets.

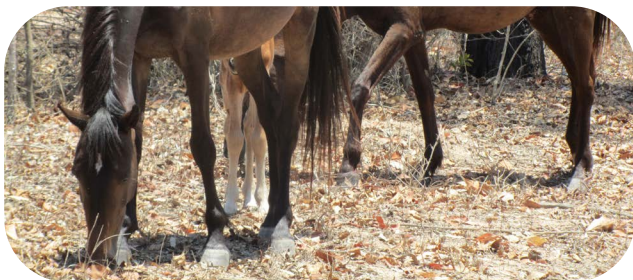
ABBREVIATIONS

- **BQ** - Biosecurity Queensland
- **BSS** - Burdekin Shire Council
- **CDTL** - Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare
- **CSIRO** - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
- **DAF** - Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- **DES** - Department of Environment and Science
- **DNRME** - Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
- **ISC** - Invasive Species Council
- **LARSG** - Large Animals on Roads Stakeholder Group
- **LG** - Local Government
- **LGA** - Local Government Area
- **NQDT** - NQ Dry Tropics
- **PPMSS** - Property Pest Management Subsidy Scheme
- **QPS** - Queensland Police Service
- **RPMPG** - Regional Pest Management Group
- **RSWG** - Regional Sagittaria Working Group
- **TCC** - Townsville City Council
- **TMR** - Department of Transport and Main Roads
- **TUH** - Townsville University Hospital
- **WRC** - Whitsundays Regional Council
- **WTMA** - Wet Tropics Management Authority
- **YCA** - Yellow Crazy Ants



Impact Zones of Critical Non-Native Species





Feral Horse

Equus caballus

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Widespread in Bluewater Park, Alligator Creek through to Mt Elliot, and Black River through to Hervey Range.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

Manage the risk to human life from large animals within road corridors.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Continue to be an active member of the multi-agency LARSG. This group consists of TMR, DES (National Parks), QPS, DNRME.
- Assist residents with feral horse control in complex situations where TCC understands the landowner needs additional capacity to undertake control safely and humanely, and/or disposal of carcass.
- Control actions are prioritised on a road user safety risk basis.
- Undertake humane euthanasia of feral horses on TCC land.
- Enable residents in feral horse control by offering the PMSS to residents with land 2ha and greater.
- Maintain communication and a working relationship with key landholders in strategic feral horse control sites.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Continue monitoring customer reports.
- Motion camera monitoring to establish pattern and lack of ownership.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- At minimum, maintain fence fronting a sealed road, and keep the gate shut if there is no grid.
- Keep domestic horses adequately contained.
- Humane control where safe to do so. TCC recognizes not every property is suitable for undertaking control safely, however it can be if neighbours cooperate together.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your actions, or lack of action, may impact on human safety.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise associated impacts.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- At minimum, maintain fence fronting a road, and keep the gate shut if there is no grid.
- Control feral horses as per your pest management plan.



Image: Hosted by the SDA-NRCS PLANTS Database. Photographer: Jose Hernandez



Gamba grass

Andropogon gayanus

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Isolated infestations in Kelso, Mt Elliot and Castle Hill.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Protection human life and infrastructure by eliminating or decreasing the intensity of fires.
- Avoid Gamba Grass fires changing the ecosystem's plant communities.
- Maintain Townsville's open woodland health and biodiversity.
- Minimise the risk of the weed's spread, and adverse impacts.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Control plants as they are identified in known locations.
- Spread awareness to the community through events.
- Encourage industry, graziers and community to report sightings of this species.
- Respond to reports of plants suspected to be Gamba Grass.
- Work with residents, graziers and industry on managing reported Gamba Grass. TCC prefers working with people on solving biosecurity issues. A biosecurity order may be issued if TCC or BQ deems in necessary to effectively solve or reduce serious biosecurity impacts.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Continue monitoring known locations on Castle Hill from February to April.
- Continue liaising with key stakeholders through the regional pest management group to monitor existing infestations in surrounding LGAs that may impact Townsville.
- Monitor Kelso site when the Ross Dam water level is low enough to expose the weed.
- Investigate reports of plants suspected to be Gamba Grass.
- Maintain communication and a working relationship with BSC.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Report suspected Gamba Grass to TCC and follow advice.
- Be aware of regulations around the sale and distribution of restricted invasive material.
- Start 4wd and motorcycle trips clean, and washdown before the next adventure.
- Brushing horses thoroughly and clean their hooves before and after travel.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Clean machinery and equipment prior to starting a job, and clean when leaving.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- You must report sightings of plants you suspect is Gamba Grass to Council and follow advice.
- Gain written permission from Council's Bushfire Officer for planned Gamba Grass burns.
- Maintain quarantine yards for incoming and outgoing stock.
- Avoid growing Gamba grass as a pasture crop.



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Pond Apple

Annona glabra

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Localised infestations in Ross River, Bushland Beach, and previously one mature plant in Saunders Beach.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Avoid localized flooding caused by dense infestations restricting water flow.
- Maintaining wetland, riparian, mangroves, and saltwater stream health and biodiversity.
- Minimise the risk of the weed's spread.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Continue control actions 2 times a year in Bushland Beach.
- Control if required biannually in Saunders Beach.
- Maintain communication and working relationships with NQDT and adjacent local governments
- Delimit the species in Ross River to determine extent, control known patches.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Continue monitoring biannually in Saunders Beach.
- Monitor control effectiveness in Bushland Beach.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Check that your dam or fruit orchard doesn't contain Pond Apple. Plants on residential properties can escape in floodwater into natural waterways.
- Do not grow, gift or sell *Annona glabra* plants, fruit, nor seeds.
- Report suspected Pond Apple plants to TCC.
- If you have this plant, please contact TCC, and follow advice.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Clean machinery and equipment prior to starting a job, and clean when leaving the job.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Report sightings of plants you suspect is Pond Apple to TCC on 13 48 10 or enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au and follow advice.



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Arrowhead

Sagittaria platyphylla

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Localised in the Ross River catchment

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Reduce impacts to Ross River recreation by preventing *Sagittaria* from causing sediment buildup, restricting water flow.
- Avoid causing regional impacts to cane growers through *Sagittaria* reducing the efficiency of irrigation networks.
- Maintaining Ross River's stream health and biodiversity.
- Minimise the risk of the weed's spread.
- Townsville is currently the only area in Queensland where eradication is considered viable, owing to TCC's early detection, and action. *Sagittaria* is recognized as a regional priority by the RPMG, and a RSWG was formed to manage the weed. The working group consists of TCC, NQ Dry Tropics, BSC, BQ and CDTL.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Continue adaptive control actions as the species has proven to be adaptive to conditions. Currently control occurs 1-4 times a month.
- Further delimit the species to build a map of known locations in the catchment.
- RSWG's Operational Lead role in learning the weed's behavior and adaptation to Dry Tropic conditions, and adapting on-ground control to mitigate adaptation.
- Undertake inspections and enforcement action if necessary conjunction with BQ at nurseries and markets for the sale of restricted matter.
- Spread awareness to the community through events.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Inspect Ross River weekly/fortnightly in summer, once a month in winter for active growth.
- Investigate reports of plants suspected to be Arrowhead.
- Maintain communication and a working relationship with bordering LGs, NQDT and BQ.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Check that your pond, dam or aquarium doesn't contain Arrowhead. Plants on residential properties can escape in floodwater into natural waterways.
- Do not gift or sell *Sagittaria platyphylla*.
- Never dump aquarium plants, water or contents down drains or into waterways.
- Report suspected Arrowhead plants to TCC on 13 48 10 or enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au
- If you have this plant, please contact TCC for mapping, and follow advice.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Clean machinery and equipment prior to starting a job, and clean when leaving the job.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Report sightings of plants you suspect is *Sagittaria* to TCC on 13 48 10 or enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au and follow advice.



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White ball acacia

Acaciella angustissima

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Previously trialled as a fodder plant near Woodstock. Plants existed on Campus Creek near the TUH, and roadsides near Rollingstone and Alligator Creek, but infestations appear to have been significantly reduced, and eradicated at Rollingstone.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Safeguard Townsville's agricultural interests.
- Maintaining savannah and open woodland health and biodiversity.
- Minimise the risk of the weed's spread.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Continue assisting DAF with on-ground and drone delimitation in Woodstock.
- Continue to assist DAF in treating infestations in Woodstock.
- Maintain communication with TMR.
- Assist DAF in developing a management plan for the Woodstock infestation.
- Investigate reports of plants suspected to be White Ball Acacia.
- Report sightings to DAF within 24 hours of discovery.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Monitor efficacy of control treatment in Woodstock.
- Monitor for reproductive flower stage to plan treatment timing.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Report suspected White Ball Acacia plants to DAF within 24 hours, and follow advice.
- Do not buy, sell, trade, nor grow the prohibited matter, *Acaciella angustissima*.
- Start 4WD and motorcycle trips clean, and washdown before the next adventure.
- Brushing horses thoroughly and clean their hooves before and after travel.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Clean machinery and equipment prior to starting a job, and clean when leaving the job.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Sightings of plants you suspect is White Ball Acacia must be reported to DAF within 24 hours and follow advice given.
- Maintain quarantine yards for incoming and outgoing stock.
- Must not grow White Ball Acacia as a pasture crop.



Grey-Haired acacia

Vachellia gerrardii (syn. *Acacia g.*)

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Only record off Southern Port Road near the Cape Cleveland Water Treatment Plant, Stuart.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Safeguard Townsville's agricultural interests.
- Maintaining savannah and open woodland health and biodiversity.
- Eradicate from Townsville.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Survey the infestation biennially.
- Report findings to DAF.
- Assist DAF in the event of another infestation being discovered.
- Investigate reports of plants suspected to be Grey-Haired Acacia.
- Report sightings to DAF within 24 hours of discovery.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Monitor germination of seedbank of controlled mature plants in Stuart.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Report suspected Grey-Haired Acacia plants to DAF within 24 hours, and follow advice.
- Do not buy, sell, trade, nor grow the Prohibited matter, *Vachellia gerrardii*.
- Start 4WD and motorcycle trips clean, and washdown before the next adventure.
- Brushing horses thoroughly and clean their hooves before and after travel.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Clean machinery and equipment prior to starting a job, and clean when leaving the job.
- Control vegetation and discard top 50cm of soil where extracting soil and rock material.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Sightings of plants you suspect is Grey-Haired Acacia must be reported to DAF within 24 hours, and follow advice given.
- Maintain quarantine yards for incoming and outgoing stock.



Wild Dog (other than domestic)

Canis spp.

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Widespread on mainland Townsville.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Reduce risk of attacks and disease transmission to humans, pets, poultry and livestock.
- Reduce economic impacts on graziers.
- Maintain a balance between apex predator and other wildlife.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Encourage community to report sightings and impacts of wild dogs.
- Control action is prioritized on a community safety risk basis.
- Encourage responsible pet ownership.
- Awareness to the community through events.
- Urban Areas: Undertake trapping and humane euthanasia of wild dogs where wild dogs are displaying aggressive or dangerous behaviour. In some situations, control may not be able to be safely undertaken.
- Peri-urban Areas: Biannual trapping program in strategic urban fringe and peri-urban areas to reduce the risks to the majority.
- Peri-urban Areas: Enable residents in wild dog control by offering the PPMSS to residents with land 2ha and greater.
- Rural Areas: Free 1080 bait injection service for eligible people. Contact TCC's Biosecurity Team to see if your property is eligible. Biannual baiting program is generally held April/May and Sep/Oct.
- Rural Areas: Offer PPMSS to residents with land 2ha and greater.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Continue monitoring customer reports.
- Maintain communication and a working relationship with key landholders in wild dog control sites.
- Motion camera monitoring prior to trapping to determine risk to wildlife and pets.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Urban Areas: Keep pets adequately contained within property, and leashed when walking.
- Urban Areas: Avoid attracting wild dogs with water, food, or smells (e.g. dispose of dog scat over the fence).
- Peri-urban Areas: People with lifestyle properties are at minimum capable of protecting pets from attack, for example, have wild dog proof enclosures.
- Peri-urban Areas: Humane control is possible on some properties. TCC recognizes not every property is suitable for undertaking control safely, however can be if neighbours cooperate together.
- Rural Areas: Integrated management – baiting, shooting, trapping, guardian animals and/or wild dog fencing targeting impacts to your, or neighbouring, stock.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Integrated management – baiting, shooting, trapping, guardian animals and/or wild dog fencing.

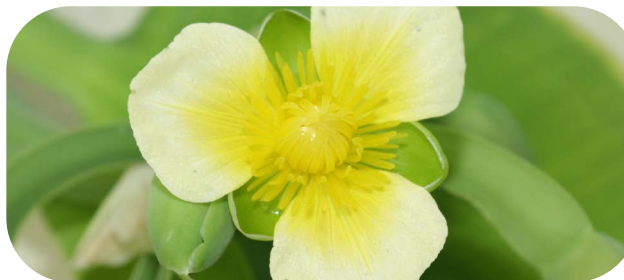


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Yellow Burr Head

Limnocharis flava

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Localised infestations in Anderson Park, Bush Gardens and Black River.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Avoid Yellow Burr Head restricting or changing directional water flow through silt buildup.
- Maintain health and biodiversity of Ross River.
- Minimise the risk of the weed's spread, and adverse impacts.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- All known sites are controlled during monitoring if required, on a monthly basis.
- Assist DAF in responding to reports of plants suspected to be Yellow Burr Head.
- Reporting to DAF monthly on monitoring and control.
- Report any new infestations to DAF within 24 hours of knowledge of the weed.
- Spread awareness to the community through events.
- Encourage community to report sightings of this species.
- Undertake inspections and enforcement action if necessary conjunction with BQ at nurseries and markets for the sale of restricted matter.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Continue monitoring known locations monthly.
- Maintain communication and a working relationship with DAF.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS

- Check that your pond, dam or aquarium doesn't contain Yellow Burr Head. Plants on residential properties can escape in floodwater into natural waterways.
- Do not gift or sell *Limnocharis flava*.
- Never dump aquarium plants, water or contents down drains or into waterways.
- Must report suspected Yellow Burr Head plants within 24 hours to DAF on 13 25 23, and follow advice.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Must report suspected Yellow Burr Head plants within 24 hours to DAF on 13 25 23, and follow advice.
- Consider how your operations impact social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise impacts associated with your activities.
- Clean machinery and equipment prior to starting a job, and clean when leaving the job.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Report sightings of plants you suspect is *Sagittaria* to TCC on 13 48 10 or enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au and follow advice.
- Seek advice from DAF or TCCs Biosecurity team prior to beginning work at the Anderson Gardens ponds.



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Yellow Crazy Ant

Anoplolepis gracilipes

TOWNSVILLE DISTRIBUTION

Infestations are known in Alligator Ck, Black River, Douglas, Mt St John and Nome. Further delimitation is required throughout Townsville.

MANAGEMENT: PURPOSE

- Avoid pets succumbing to burning and irritation of skin and eyes by Yellow Crazy Ants.
- Avoid electrical and other damage to infrastructure.
- Maintain animal biodiversity and plant health.
- Avoid large scale spread, minimise or eradicate where able.

TCC FOCUS: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Continue to delimit the Douglas infestation.
- Respond to reports of Yellow Crazy Ants throughout the LGA.
- Spread mitigation treatments in Douglas and Mt St John.
- Treat any Yellow Crazy Ants found in the Nome infestation.
- Work in partnership with ISC.
- Assist ISC in the development of a Yellow Crazy Ant Management Plan.
- Maintain communication with WTMA, CSIRO, DAF and WRC.

TCC FOCUS: MONITORING

- Continue monitoring customer reports.
- Sight, lure and sticky trap monitoring in Nome and Douglas.

EXPECTATION: RESIDENTS, COMMUNITY GROUPS & HOBBYISTS






- Report ants suspected to be Yellow Crazy Ants to either TCC, or the ISC, including a good photo or ant sample.
- Follow advice given by TCC's Biosecurity Team and ISC.
- Do not sell produce nor items that contain Yellow Crazy Ants.

EXPECTATION: INDUSTRY

- Consider how your actions, or lack of action, may impact on social, economic and environmental impacts.
- Develop a pest management plan to minimise associated impacts.
- Keep up to date with changes to biosecurity regulations.
- Report ants suspected to be Yellow Crazy Ants to TCC, and follow advice.
- Treat areas where the risk of spread is heightened (e.g. stored pallets, crushing plants, etc).



Contact us

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-  PO Box 1268, Townsville QLD 4810
-  13 48 10
-  enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au
-  townsville.qld.gov.au