

WEED OF THE MONTH

WANTED:

FLAX-LEAF FLEABANE

Have you seen Flax-leaf Fleabane growing along roadsides, disturbed areas or drains? Flaxleaf Fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*) is an erect upright stem plant that is covered with fine hairs. This weed is just one of several



flleabane species naturalised in Australia. However, the *Conyza bonariensis* is now present in Cooktown.

Fleabane originated in South America and now has been recognised as a major invasive weed in southern QLD and northern NSW. This is due to heavily invading crops and pasture in southern Australia.

Fleabane is a major weed that

competes for vital resource of soil and water practically in crops. Once the crop is removed the fleabane has no completion for soil and light resulting in rapid growth.

It has been confirmed that flax-leaf fleabane is resistant to glyphosate and uses it as a nutrient/fertilizer making it difficult to control.

Here's some tips to identify and to prevent the spread of Flax-leaf Fleabane:

- The *Conyza bonariensis* can reach a height of 1m tall with other species reaching up to 2m tall
- Mature plants have an erect upright stem with small leaves
- Juvenile plants form a rosette that smothers other plants
- Erect leaves are grey-green, with a coarsely toothed shape, that are covered with fine hair.
- Fluffy cream colour seed heads once matured
- Seeds will only germinate in the presence of light and

USEFUL CONTACTS

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emerge only from the top of 1cm of soil

- Flowers can be white/yellow, flowering all year round
- Each individual plants contains 100, 000 seeds with up to 80% being viable
- Dispersal easily via wind, water, animals, clothing and machinery

If you are unsure if it's flax-leaf fleabane, send a sample to the [Queensland Herbarium](#) for identification? This is a free service and instructions on how to collect and send a sample can be found online.