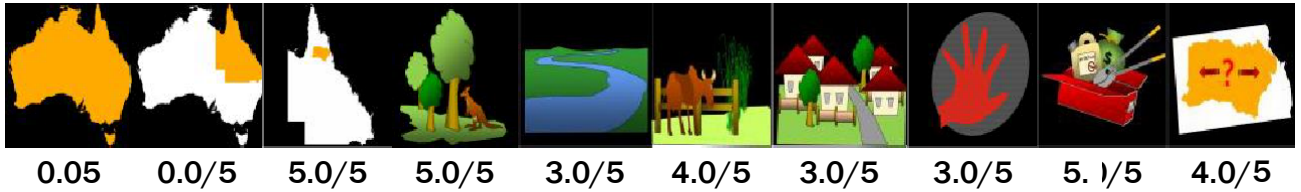


Calotropis procera (Calotrope)

Priority



Details

Description: A spreading shrub or small tree to 4 m with distinctive, cupped large grey/green leaves attached at the base to the stem. Small white and purple flowers produce a mango shaped fruit which splits open to release wind-borne seeds with long white silky hairs.

Distribution: Calotrope prefers semi-arid to dry tropical environments. Current infestations are located from Lakeland south into the ranges and the Normanby catchments. The full distribution within the Cook Shire area is not known.

Impacts: Calotrope readily invades water courses and grazing lands where it outcompetes native plants and pastures. It is poisonous to humans and may also poison stressed stock.

Key projects: A coordinated project is underway to determine the full extent of Calotrope within the Cook Shire area. When the extent is established the feasibility of initiating an intensive control or eradication program will be assessed. Report any suspect plants to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444.

Management requirements



Delimitation

Although well adapted for wind-borne dispersal which is its main method of spread Calotrope will spread along watercourses and roads. Landholders should be on the lookout for plants in new locations especially following disturbance from events like floods or road works and the introduction of raw materials or stock.

Spelling stock in holding yards for 7 days prior to releasing to pasture/rangeland will help them to shed seed if they have been in contaminated areas. Ensure quarry and raw materials are free of seed.

The full distribution of Calotrope in the Cook Shire area is not well understood at this point in time. A project is underway to map the extent and density of known infestations prior to formulating an appropriate management response.

Report any suspect plants to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444.



Prevention

All known locations of plants on high risk pathways such as major roads are surveyed and treated annually. Maintaining healthy pastures, sustainable stocking rates and appropriate fire regimes may assist to reduce the likelihood of infestations. Report any suspect plants to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444.

Control Calendar

flower	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
seed	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
herbicide	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
mechanical	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Biology		●			○			○			⊗	
Control		Optimal			Good			Marginal			Not recommended	

Calotropis procera (Calotrope)







- terrestrial
- shrub
- perennial

Category

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

Control

- 
- 
- 
- 

Spread

- 
- 

What is my biosecurity obligation?

Delimitation zone

Prevention zone

Work is underway to survey and map the full extent of Calotrope within the Cook Shire area. Mapping or assisting survey and mapping operations underway will help to develop the appropriate management response into the future. In the interim any isolated plants or plants which pose a high risk of spread to new locations should be controlled where possible.

Report any suspected outbreaks or detections to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444. Ensure any machinery or vehicles moving from infested areas are free from plant material and soil.

For more information on management aims in each zone refer to *Using the pest plan templates*