

CONTROL OPTIONS FOR YELLOW BELLS

Tecoma stans (*Stenolobium stans*) Other common name: Tecoma, Yellow Trumpet Flower

Easy and quick to grow with a showy display of yellow flowers, Yellow Bells was a popular garden plant. The sort of plant picked up cheaply at market stalls. It is now an environmental weed in NSW and Queensland - along with much of South America, Africa and southern Asia. As a category 3 restricted plant it is illegal to trade or knowingly distribute the plant in Queensland.

**CONTROL THIS WEED
BEFORE IT BECOMES A MORE
SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE
GYMPIE REGION.**

THE PROBLEM

With prolific seed production and rapid growth Yellow Bells out-competes native shrubs and quickly colonises disturbed areas. It is a particular threat to riparian vegetation. Yellow Bells has taken over the banks of the Boyne River near Gladstone and the Logan River behind the Gold Coast. It is common along roadsides and thrives in the drier areas to the west of Gympie. In grazing and farming areas Yellow Bells reduces feed quality, and hinders access for stock and machinery.

How the weed spreads

Yellow Bells seeds have a papery wing and are easily spread by wind, rain or birds. Yellow Bells also has a well-developed tap and lateral root system. The plant will grow new suckers if damaged roots are left in the ground. Thoughtlessly dumped cuttings and roots can re-shoot and further spread the weed.

Learn to recognise Yellow Bells

- Yellow Bells is an evergreen shrub or small tree that grows 4 to 7 metres high. The bark on the main trunk is light brown and is rough on mature plants. Twigs have a squarish cross section. The 10 cm long compound leaves have 2 to 5 pairs of bright green serrate leaflets.
- The weed's common name refers to its bright yellow bell shaped flowers (similar to those of cats claw creeper which is in the same Family) that grow in large clusters in Spring and Summer.
- The flowers produce bean like seed pods 10 to 30cm long that are green when young, but become brown as they mature. Each pod contains numerous 2.2cm long winged seeds.
- Cotyledons (germinating initial leaves) are a distinctive heart-shape.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The key time for monitoring and control is in Spring and Summer as seedlings germinate.

The best and easiest form of control is prevention. Learn to recognize the young plants and remove them before they produce seeds. Watch for new growth as seeds will continue to be blown in.

Physical control

Seedlings and small plants can be hand-pulled, but large plants are difficult to control manually.

If digging out larger plants do not break the tap root and remove all the yellow roots, otherwise regrowth will occur. If possible, burn the roots. Collect, bag and dispose of all seed pods. Monitor and re-treat regrowth from seeds &/or broken roots for at least three years. Carefully dispose of waste plant material - transport it to a waste disposal facility, burn it, bury it, or chip and mulch it!

Yellow Bells seedlings can be suppressed by vigorous competition from other plants. If practical, after removing adult and juvenile plants, plant a vigorous pasture species or a local native.

Chemical control

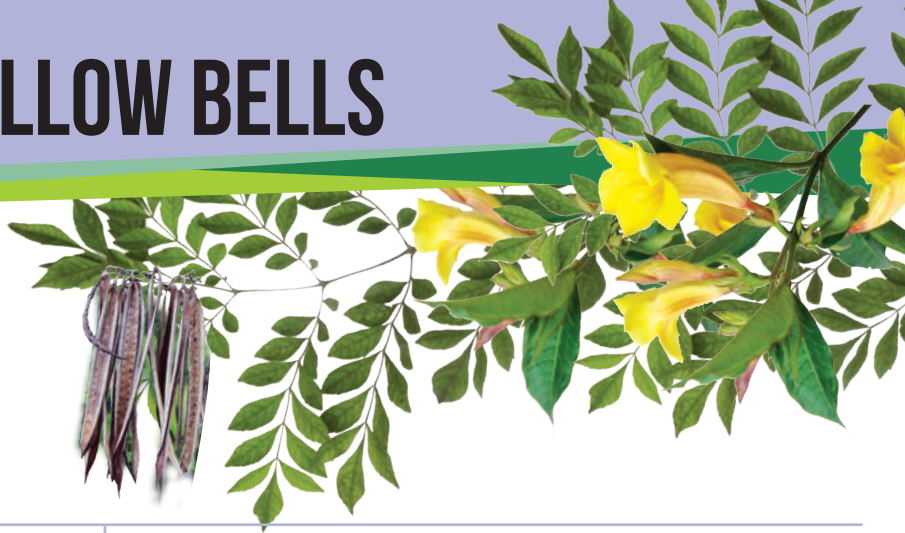
Chemical treatment is the most effective control. Collect and dispose of all seed and be prepared to treat regrowth for up to 18 months.

In most instances glyphosate is the preferred herbicide. Take care to avoid non target species. Glyphosate can be applied as a foliar spray or by cut and wipe. Glyphosate formulations with "frog friendly" wetting agents are recommended. Read the herbicide label carefully before use. Always apply the herbicide in accord with label directions.



Gympie & District
LANDCARE

ALTERNATIVE NATIVE PLANTS FOR GARDENS



Acacia amblygona

(*A. amblygona*)



TYPE	Shrub to 1.5m
ASPECT	Full Sun/Shade
SOIL	Adaptable

A small, spreading shrub, that ranges from an almost prostrate form to a 1.5m high rounded shrub. Showy bright yellow flowers are produced in winter and spring. Widespread in eucalyptus forests in undulating ridge country and on the footslopes of the ranges. *A. amblygona* is widely planted as a ground cover. It prefers well drained soils in a sunny position. The upright forms are less common in cultivation.

Native Golden Shower / Crown of Gold

(*Barklya syringifolia*)



TYPE	Tree to 8m in cultivation
ASPECT	Tolerates full sun to partial shade
SOIL	Suits well-drained & rich soils with good rainfall

One of the most spectacular flowering trees of our region and the floral emblem of Gladstone. *Barklya* is a commonly garden and street tree. As a member of the legume family it helps fix nitrogen in the soil. The leaves are shiny green and heart shaped with attractive bronze new growth at the tips. In summer the tree produces showy sprays of spectacular and fragrant golden-yellow flowers. The fruit that follow are brown, flattish pods, ripe April to May. Very slow growing. Flowers once the plants are about 2 metres tall.

Brisbane Wattle

(*Acacia fimbriata*)



TYPE	Shrub to 5m
ASPECT	Full Sun
SOIL	Clay

The classic SE Qld wattle with attractive feathery foliage, and perfumed ball flowers in winter and spring. Frost hardy. Popular as a garden plant and ideal for planting as a quick growing screening plant or gap filler. As it is usually short-lived, plan for replacement after 8 years. Cut back new growth by a third after flowering to keep the plant tidy and promote new growth. Ensure adequate water during dry spells. Brisbane Wattle is a host plant for several butterflies, while its seed provides food for birds and feather-tailed gliders. Gardening Australia's Colin Campbell attributes to the roasted seed flavours of hazelnut, chocolate and coffee.

Pavetta, Butterfly Bush

(*Pavetta australiensis*)



TYPE	Shrub to 5m
ASPECT	Full Sun/ Semi Shade
SOIL	Well drained

An easily grown ornamental shrub 1 to 5 m tall that is commonly planted for its perfumed white flowers. The broad slightly glossy leaves are almost succulent looking. Flowering depends on rainfall and temperature but is usually between September and November. Prolonged dry periods may hinder flowering. Black berries about 4 months after flowering. *Pavetta* grows well in full sun or semi shade and prefers well-drained soils. Once established it is quite hardy. Pruning will help to maintain bush growth and prevent the bush from becoming scraggly. The nectariferous flowers attract butterflies while the caterpillars of Bee Hawk Moths feed on its leaves. The ripe fruits attract fruit eating birds.



Gympie & District Landcare Group
Corner of Groves & Old Maryborough Roads,
Gympie, Queensland, 4570

Ph: 07 5483 8866

Email: admin@gympielandcare.org.au

Website: www.gympielandcare.org.au

Gympie & District Landcare operate a community nursery and biocontrol raising facility. The site is attended Wednesday to Friday and Saturday mornings.



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