

# Singapore daisy

*Sphagneticola trilobata*



Singapore daisy is a mat forming ground cover. It spreads rapidly and smothers seedling, ferns and shrubs and will out-compete them for survival. Singapore daisy is invading all different environmental areas, even living in sand. Singapore daisy will even grow through lawns if uncontrolled.

## Legal requirements

Singapore daisy is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act

requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). This fact sheet gives examples of how you can meet your GBO.

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.





## Description

Singapore daisy is a vigorous ground cover or low climbing plant. The leaves are lush glossy green, usually 3 lobed and in pairs up the stem 4–18 cm long and 1.5–8 cm wide.

Singapore daisy produces yellow to orange-yellow daisy flowers about 2 cm. The flowers are held above the leaves on short leaf stalks. Seeds are elongated, brown 4–5 mm long. The amount of seed per flowers varies greatly.

## Life cycle

Flowers mostly spring to autumn but will flower all year round. Most reproduction is vegetative, from stems nodes.

## Methods of spread

Singapore daisy produces variable amounts of seeds but is mainly spread by cuttings via slashing and pruning.

## Habitat and distribution

Singapore daisy is a garden escapee and native of tropical America. It prefers moist areas on a range of soil types. Found in gardens, parks, bushland, disturbed areas, along roadsides, lawns and footpaths.

It is becoming a problem by invading wetlands, irrigated areas and around drains.

Present in all coastal areas of Queensland.

## Control

### Managing Singapore daisy

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by Singapore daisy. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling Singapore daisy.

As Singapore daisy likes to establish in disturbed areas, pre plan revegetation of the area you are clearing. Take extra care when mowing or slashing around areas planted where Singapore daisy is planted so small fragments are not spread to other locations.

## Physical control

Hand pull and dig up runners. The plant will regrow from the smallest cutting so dispose of waste carefully. Either burn waste or put into a black plastic bag and place in the sun for a few days before putting into the refuse bin. Repeat hand pulling will need to be done as new lawns.

## Herbicide control

An off-label use permit allows the use of various herbicides for the control of Singapore daisy in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under PER11463 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au).

## Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).



**Table 1. Herbicides for control of Singapore daisy**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/L (e.g. Nufarm Associate)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	APVMA PER11463 (permit expires 30/06/2018)	Spray thoroughly to wet all foliage, but not to cause run-off Minimise contact with desirable species Only use products registered for Singapore daisy

**Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.**

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au) to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation, and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the use of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

