

SIAM WEED IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

DETECTION AND CONTROL AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE YEAR

The three things to spot are:



Pitch-forking veins



Fluffy white flowers



Opposite leaves

Image credit: Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

WE NEED YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THIS PITCH-FORKING WEED!

Native to the Americas, Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*) is a perennial upright shrub growing up to 2-3m tall, forming dense spreading thickets, or sprawling and scrambling plants up to 10m high when climbing vegetation.

Siam weed has now become a major land management issue across tropical Asia and Africa. It has high nitrite levels and has led to cattle death and aborted calves. It may cause skin complaints and asthma in allergy prone people.

It outcompetes crops, pastures and native vegetation and has led to the abandonment of prime farming areas in some countries.

Detected in the Tully area of Far North Queensland in 1994.

Detected on two adjoining Northern Territory properties in mid-2019.

The Northern Territory infestation was discovered because somebody reported a plant that seemed out of place.

REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS OF SIAM WEED IMMEDIATELY

Weed Management Branch, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security

PO Box 496, Palmerston NT 0810, Australia

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nt.gov.au/siam



WET SEASON



December – May

This is the active growing season and the best time of the year to control it with herbicides. There is a biological control agent, a gall fly, that is also more active at this time of year. Seeds may be present in the mud.

Plants start to wilt after the rains finish in May.

BUILD UP



October – November

The seeds have mostly fallen off the plants, but a few seeds hold on. There is still a risk of accidentally spreading seeds at this time of year, so it is important to be careful not to accidentally brush up against seeding plants.

Plants can hang like vines from supporting vegetation, often still carrying seed. The leaves can all drop off, leaving bare stems. Plants are very hard to spot and easy to bump into.

DECEMBER – JANUARY

FEBRUARY – MARCH

APRIL – MAY



FLOWERING TIME

June – July

Clusters of 10-35 small white to pale pink or purple tubular flowers, 10mm long, found at the end of branches. This is the easiest time to detect Siam weed and the best time of year to survey for it in new areas. However, it can be difficult to kill established plants at this time of year because they are not actively growing.

Lower leaves begin to yellow and brown off.

JUNE – JULY



SEEDING TIME

August – September

A prolific seed producer, the seeds have a parachute of fine white hairs which turn brown as the seed dries. Seeds become airborne in wind and contain barbs that can easily stick to fur, clothing and vehicles.

At this time of year, Siam weed can look quite dry and brown and it can be hard to detect amongst other vegetation, so it is not a good time of year to survey or control. It is important to keep clear of seeding plants due to the high risk of accidentally transporting seeds to new areas.

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER