



Mimosa bush

Acacia farnesiana



Description

Mimosa bush (*Acacia farnesiana*) is a rounded shrub or small tree generally growing 3 m tall, occasionally to 5 m. It often forms thorny thickets, and is nearly always multi-stemmed. The branches grow in a zigzag shape and are usually a grey-brown colour with prominent white spots.

Leaves are a ferny type, with 1–6 pairs of leaf "branches" each with 5–20 pairs of narrow, rounded leaflets 4–8 mm long. Leaves are sometimes more of a yellowish green than a pure green. Thorns are found in pairs at the base of each leaf and can grow up to 10 cm long.

Golden yellow to orangeish flowers are bailshaped, about 1 cm across, and grow on stalks, usually two stalks at the base of each leaf. Flowers develop into clusters of cigar-shaped pods, slightly curved and up to 6 cm long. The pods are dark brown or black and woody at maturity, with seeds embedded in the pith. Pods do not split open and tend to stay on the plant for a length of time.

Mimosa can be confused with the declared weeds mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) and prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*), particularly when young (see 'Identification of Prickly Bushes' PP33).

Distribution

Mimosa bush, a native of central and south America, is naturalised in Australia. It is very widespread in Queensland, and found in all but the wettest and driest parts of the State. Seeds sprout readily and plants grow rapidly. It does well in dry localities and on loamy or sandy soils, forming thickets along watercourses. Mimosa bush withstands drought well, is readily eaten by stock, and has good regrowth after grazing. It is not a long-lived plant. In some parts of the world this bush is cultivated for perfume production.

The problem

Mimosa bush can spread readily and grow quickly. As it often forms thorny thickets, it can be a considerable nuisance during mustering and can also hinder stock access to water.

Mimosa does offer shade in open downs country and can be useful as a supplement to grass during the dry season. It may therefore be a useful plant in some areas if its spread can be controlled to prevent thicket formation. The maintenance of healthy pasture competition is the best mechanism to achieve this.

Herbicide control

Basal bark spray

For stems up to 15 cm diameter, carefully spray completely around base of plant to a height of 30 cm above ground level. Thoroughly spray into all crevices. Larger trees may be controlled by spraying to a greater height, up to 100 cm above ground level.



The best time for treatment is during autumn when plants are actively growing and soil moisture is good.

Cut stump treatment

At any time of year, cut stems off horizontally as close to the ground as possible. **Immediately** (within 15 seconds) swab cut surface with herbicide mixture.

Bore drains

Channels and drains must be empty of water. Spray a one metre strip into the mud in channel or drain. Wait at least three days for diuron to bond to mud before slowly allowing water in again. Water must not be used in domestic water supply or supplied to desirable shade trees for 7–14 days after re-opening the drain.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at our local government.

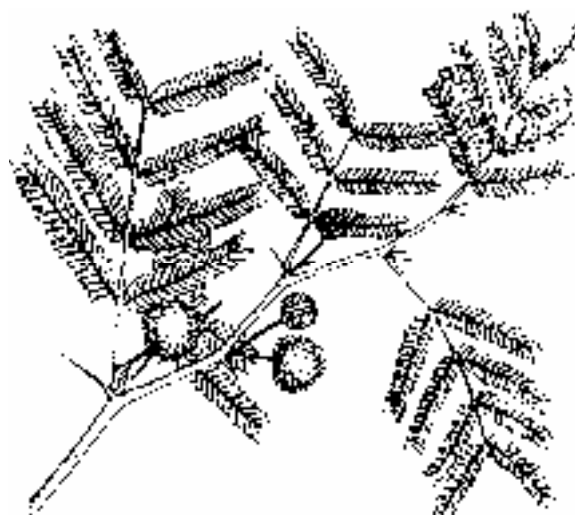


TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF MIMOSA BUSH

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Optimum time	Remarks (also see text)
Basal bark/cut stump	Fluroxypr eg. Starane 200®, Tomigan 200 EC®, Flagship 200®.	3 L/100 L diesel	Basal bark: for plants up to 5cm basal diameter.	
	Triclopyr + picloram eg. Access®	1 L/60L diesel	Basal bark: for plants up to 5cm basal diameter.	Ensure all stems on multi-stemmed plants are treated.
Bore drains	Diuron 500 SC®	64 L/ha		3 day withholding period
	Diuron 900DF®	35.5 kg/ha		
	Diuron 900WG®	35.5 kg/ha		

Fact sheets are available from NRW service centres and the NRW Information Centre phone (07 3237 1435). Check our web site <www.nrw.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact 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 utilisation 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, the Department of Natural Resources and Water does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.