

Queensland poplar

Homalanthus populifolius

Family

Euphorbiaceae (spurge)

Also known as

Bleeding heart tree, poplar leaved omalanthus

Where is it originally from?

Australia, Papua New Guinea

What does it look like?

Shrub or small tree (<5 m) with smooth, heart-shaped leaves (3-20 cm long) that turn red with age. Small and inconspicuous individual flowers occur in clusters of spikes (<17 cm long, Sept-Nov) are followed by smooth fruits (<8-10 mm diameter) made up of two sections with a groove in between, and two small 'antennae' that stick out from the top.

Are there any similar species?

Homalanthus polyandrous has 3-angled, reddish fruit (10-12 mm diameter).

Why is it weedy?

Produces large amounts of seed and is shade-tolerant.

How does it spread?

Seed is spread by birds, water, and machinery, especially roadside mowers.

What damage does it do?

Forms a sub-canopy and can displace native species by competing for light, nutrients, water and space.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Regenerating bush, forest margins, roadsides and waste places.

What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Grub out seedlings (all year round).
2. Cut and stump paint larger plants: picloram gel.
3. Spray smaller plants: metsulfuron methyl 600g/kg (5g/10L).

What can I do to stop it coming back?

Replant site with native species to prevent re-establishment.



www.weedbusters.org.nz



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Carolyn Lewis