

Candle bush

Senna alata

HABIT



An evergreen spreading perennial shrub up to 4m tall. Plant parts are poisonous if ingested.

STEMS & ROOTS



Candle bush has short, pithy stems, and a shallow mat root system.

LEAVES



Leaves are up to 60cm long and consist of up to 14 pairs of large, oblong leaflets. The compound leaves are alternate on the plant stem.

FLOWERS



Flowers are yellow and are clustered in vertical spikes.

FRUIT & SEED



Dark brown to black pods are elongated, grow upwards from the stems and have two membranous wings. Seeds are dark-grey to black and have a triangular shape.

Candle bush is declared a Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory.

Candle bush is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

The problem

Candle bush invades native bushland in wetter areas to form dense thickets. This can impede access to waterways and it is suspected of being poisonous to stock.

Habitat and distribution

Candle bush, a native of Central and South America, is now a weed in Africa, tropical Asia and the Pacific region and it was introduced into Australia probably as an ornamental. In Darwin it has spread into native bushland in coastal and near coastal regions. It is widespread in far north Queensland and may become naturalised in Kununurra.

Preventing spread of Candle bush

Spread prevention is the most successful and cost effective way of managing weeds. Candle bush seed can be spread via floodwaters, in mud attached to vehicles, machinery and stock, and when animals eat and expel seeds.

Candle bush control

The infested area must be managed in such a way that prevents the spread of seed or plant parts. Treatment must be done prior to seed set. Treat all plants to destroy and prevent propagation each year until no plants remain.

Chemical control

Chemical and concentration	Rate	Situation, method and comments
Fluroxypyr 200 g/L Various trade names	200 ml / 100 L or 3 L / ha (boom) 1.5 L / 100 L (diesel) 1.5 L / 100 L (diesel)	Seedling (individuals or infestation) + Adult infestation Foliar spray - add uptake spraying oil Adult (individuals or infestation) Basal bark < 10 cm stem diameter, treat up to 45 cm from ground Cut stump > 10 cm stem diameter

Optimum treatment times – Darker colours represent preferred months for foliar treatment.

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Non-chemical control

Isolated plants can be dug out and roots removed.

Follow up

It is vital that follow up works are carried out to control seedling recruitment and regrowth after a site has been treated.

Disclaimer

In the Northern Territory, a registered product must only be used in situations consistent to those appearing on the label, unless authorised under a permit; and a person:

- must not have in their possession or use a chemical product unless the product is registered in Australia (exemptions apply)
- may use a registered product at a concentration, rate or frequency lower than that specified on the label unless this is specifically prohibited on the label. This does not apply to herbicide use occurring under an Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit
- may use a registered product to control a pest not specified on the label provided the pest is in a situation that is on the label and use on that pest is not specifically prohibited on the label
- may also use a registered product using a method not specified on the label unless this is specifically prohibited on the label.

Users of agricultural (or veterinary) chemical products must always read the label and any permit, before using the product and strictly comply with the directions on the label and any conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or conditions of the permit by reason of any statement made in or omission from this publication.

Further information

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning.

For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).