



Determining what is 'native' vegetation under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

As part of managing vegetation on your property, you may need to determine whether a particular species is 'native' and therefore regulated under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (VMA).

The Census of the Queensland Flora and Fungi (the Census) identifies plants considered 'native' and 'native and naturalised' in Queensland. This fact sheet will help you to use the Census to determine whether any species is considered 'native' in a particular location, and therefore, regulated under the VMA.

How do I find out what species of plant it is?

In order to use the Census the first thing you will need to know is the scientific name of the plant. If you do not know the common or scientific name of the plant, firstly contact your local government or natural resource management group for assistance with identification.

If identification is difficult, the Queensland Herbarium provides a free plant identification service to the public. Go to www.qld.gov.au and search 'identify specimens'. Fees may apply to commercial clients.

TIP *If you know the common name of the plant (e.g. Umbrella tree), a search of the internet will usually provide the scientific name (e.g. Heptapleurum actinophyllum). However, care should be taken as scientific names may change over time e.g. the genus name for Umbrella tree changed in 2020 from Schefflera to Heptapleurum and some plants may have a variety of common names which can vary from region to region.*

What is meant by 'native', 'non-native' and 'naturalised'?

Native plants are those that are considered to have evolved in Queensland unaided by humans, or have migrated to and persisted in Queensland without assistance from humans from an area in which they are considered to be 'native'. The Census will include native plants as either '**Native to Qld**' (that is, 'native' across all of Queensland) or '**Native and Naturalised in Qld**' (that is, 'native' in specified pastoral districts within the Census, while being 'non-native' elsewhere).

For more information call 135 VEG (135 834)
email vegetation@resources.qld.gov.au
or search 'Vegetation Management' on www.qld.gov.au

'Non-native' plants are species that are wildlife introduced to Australia, or Queensland, by human intervention (excluding pre-European introductions) and have then successfully established populations by reproducing without cultivation or other human intervention. The Census will include 'non-native' species as either: **'Formerly naturalised'**, **'Doubtfully naturalised'** or **'Naturalised in Queensland'**.

One species has been separately categorised in the Census. *Cocus nucifera* (the coconut) is considered to include two taxonomic types. This species is considered 'native' within the Cape York Peninsula bioregion. However, the 'domesticated' taxonomic type is considered 'naturalised' in the remaining bioregions. Coconut plants are therefore considered non-native under the VMA when found outside the Cape York Peninsula bioregion.

How do I know if a particular species is considered 'native' under the VMA?

Step 1: Go to www.data.qld.gov.au (or www.qld.gov.au) and search 'flora fungi census'.

Step 2: Select the most recent Census and open the database.

 *The Census is usually updated annually - screenshots below are from the 2022 version.*

Step 3: Select Full Data Set (see example below).

Census of the Queensland Flora and Fungi 2022

Data usability rating: 

Contains open format machine-readable open data.

Names, distributions and status of Queensland plants, algae, fungi, lichens and cyanobacteria, based on the Queensland Herbarium database 'HerbreCs'. Please refer to [Flora census web page](#) for further information.

Data and Resources

 [Census of the Queensland flora and fungi 2022: Vascular Plants \(Print\)](#)
Names, distributions and status of Queensland native and naturalised plants,...

 [Introduction to the Queensland plant and fungi census for 2022](#)
Provides information about the data presented in the 2022 Queensland census,...

 [List of abbreviations and terms for the 2022 plant and fungi census](#)
List of abbreviations and terms for the 2022 plant and fungi census

 [Full data set](#)
Names, distributions and status of Queensland native and naturalised plants,...

Full data set

[Biodiversity](#) [algae](#) [bryophyte](#) [flora](#) [fungi](#) [lichen](#) [plant](#) [plants](#) [science](#)

Step 4: You can either:

- Download a copy of the database; or
- Search the database on the webpage without downloading a copy.

In the example below, we will search the database for the Umbrella Tree (*Heptapleurum actinophyllum*) without downloading a copy.

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Step 5: Select the 'Fullscreen' option.

Census of the Queensland Flora and Fungi 2022 / Full data set

Download (4.5 MiB) (CSV) Data API

Full data set

URL: <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/62f0a246-0255-4982-aa16-efec119b6064/resource/548...>

Names, distributions and status of Queensland native and naturalised plants, algae, fungi, lichens and cyanobacteria, based on the Queensland Herbarium database 'Herbrecs'.

Data Explorer

Fullscreen </> Embed

Add Filter

Grid Graph Map about 18000 records « 1 - 100 » Filters

Search data ...

_id	Kingdom	Sub_Kin...	Division	Class	SubClass	Order_N...	Group_...	Family
28	Chromista		Bacillario...	Bacillario...	Bacillario...	Naviculales	Algae	Amphipl..

Step 6: Click into the highlighted search box, type the scientific name of the species that you are interested in and select 'Go'.

Grid Graph Map 1 records « 1 - 100 » Q Heptableurum actinophyllur Go » Filters

_id	Kingdom	Sub_Kin...	Division	Class	SubClass	Order_N...	Group_...	Family	Subfami...	Tribe_N...	Botanic...	Taxon_...	Genus	Species	R
2322	Plantae	Viridapl...	Streptop...	Equiseto...	Magnoli...	Apiales	Angiosp...	Araliaceae			Heptable...	Heptable...	Heptable...	actinoph...	S

Step 7: Click into a cell in the table and use your arrow keys to scroll across to the 'Naturalisation_Status' column.

TIP You may need to widen the column cell with your mouse to read the full details.

Grid Graph Map 1 records « 1 - 100 » Q Heptableurum actinophyllur Go » Filters

Class	Order_N...	Group_...	Family	Subfami...	Tribe_N...	Botanic...	Taxon_...	Genus	Species	Rank	Info_Na...	Naturalisation_Status	NCA_St...
gnolii...	Apiales	Angiosp...	Araliaceae			Heptable...	Heptable...	Heptable...	actinoph...	Species		Native and naturalised in QLD	

Step 8: The following table provides guidance on the species 'Naturalisation Status' result and whether the species is regulated under the VMA.

Naturalisation Status	What does this mean? *	Native under the VMA?
Native to QLD	Native plants are those that are considered to have evolved in Queensland unaided by humans or have migrated to and persisted in Queensland without assistance from humans.	Yes

Naturalisation Status	What does this mean? *	Native under the VMA?
Naturalised in QLD	Plants introduced to Australia or Queensland by human intervention (excluding pre-European introductions) and which have successfully established populations by reproducing without cultivation or other human intervention.	No
Formerly naturalised in QLD	Species that were previously considered naturalised but are presumed to have disappeared from the landscape (not collected for more than 50 years).	No
Doubtfully naturalised in QLD	Species that have populations that may be in the early stages of naturalisation and not yet established in the landscape, or their continued existence in the landscape may be doubtful.	No
Native and naturalised in QLD	<p>These are plants that are 'native' to part of Queensland but have become naturalised in a pastoral district[^] outside their native range.</p> <p>Appendix 1 of this Fact Sheet contains a list of 27 species that are identified 'native and naturalised' in the Census and are considered 'native' under the VMA because they are a component species of regional ecosystems in specified bioregions of Queensland.</p> <p>Through recent movement and cultivation by people, these species have also been introduced to other parts of Queensland where they are considered to be 'non-native', are not component species of regional ecosystems in Queensland, and in some places may have become problematic weed species.</p> <p>For example, the Umbrella tree (<i>Heptapleurum actinophyllum</i>) is a 'native' component species of regional ecosystems in the Wet Tropics Bioregion of northern Queensland, but due to introduction by humans, has become a common garden plant, and even an invasive pest of bushland areas, in south eastern Queensland. It is therefore regulated vegetation in the Cape York, Wet Tropics, Einasleigh, and Central Qld Coast bioregions only. In all other Queensland bioregions, the Umbrella tree is considered 'non-native' and therefore not regulated under the VMA.</p>	See Appendix 1

* Information adapted from the Census and other web guidance provided by the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation.

[^] Historically, 15 pastoral districts were created to assist in administering pastoral runs. A run referred to a large area on which sheep and cattle were depastured without the need for a lot of fencing.

To determine which bioregion your plant specimen site is located you may [download a VM Property Report](#) and Table 2 in section 1.2 of the report will indicate the bioregion.

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 or search 'Vegetation Management' on www.qld.gov.au



So can I remove the plant once it has been correctly identified?

The clearing of vegetation may be regulated by the Commonwealth, State or local government at any location. Whether a plant can be cleared, and how it can be cleared, depends on the particular circumstances at that location.

If you are uncertain as to whether a plant can be cleared, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Vegetation Hub on 135VEG (13 58 34), or by emailing vegetation@resources.qld.gov.au. You may also need to seek advice from other agencies such as the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation, or your local government.

Need further information?

For further information on determining non-native species, refer to the most recent Census, or contact the Queensland Herbarium by emailing Queensland.Herbarium@qld.gov.au or phoning (07) 3199 7699.

For further information on the Vegetation Management framework call 135VEG (13 58 34).

Appendix 1: Bioregions in which ‘native and naturalised’ species are considered ‘native’ under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

Species Name	Native to these Bioregions
<i>Acacia coleii</i>	Gulf Plains, NW Highlands, Einasleigh, Mitchell Grass Downs, Desert Uplands, Brigalow Belt
<i>Acacia conferta</i>	Brigalow Belt, Central Qld Coast, SE Qld, New England Tableland
<i>Acacia dietrichiana</i>	Einasleigh, Gulf Plains, Desert Uplands, Brigalow Belt
<i>Acacia elachantha</i>	Gulf Plains, NW Highlands, Mitchell Grass Downs, Desert Upland, Brigalow Belt, Channel Country
<i>Acacia fimbriata</i>	Brigalow Belt, Central Qld Coast, SE Qld
<i>Acacia hemsleyi</i>	Cape York, Gulf Plains, NW Highlands, Desert Uplands, Mitchell Grass Downs, Brigalow Belt (North)
<i>Acacia holosericea</i>	All bioregions except SE Qld
<i>Acacia macradenia</i>	Brigalow Belt, Desert Uplands, Mitchell Grass Downs, Mulga Lands
<i>Acacia mangium</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics
<i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>	Wet Tropics, Einasleigh
<i>Acacia spectabilis</i>	Brigalow Belt, Mulga Lands
<i>Albizia lebbekii</i>	Cape York
<i>Aleurites moluccanus</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics
<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i>	Wet Tropics
<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics, Brigalow Belt, Einasleigh, Central Qld Coast
<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>	Wet Tropics
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Cape York, Gulf Plains, Cape York, Central Qld Coast, Brigalow Belt
<i>Diplazium dietrichianum</i>	Wet Tropics
<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics, Einasleigh, Central Qld Coast, Brigalow Belt
<i>Grevillea banksii</i>	Brigalow Belt, SE Qld
<i>Grevillea glossadenia</i>	Wet Tropics
<i>Heptapleurum actinophyllum</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics, Einasleigh, Central Qld Coast
<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i>	Cape York, Gulf Plains, Wet Tropics
<i>Laportea interrupta</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics, Einasleigh Uplands
<i>Millettia pinnata</i>	Cape York, Gulf Plains, Wet Tropics, Einasleigh, Central Qld Coast, Brigalow Belt
<i>Piper umbellatum</i>	Wet Tropics, Central Qld Coast
<i>Terminalia arenicola</i>	Cape York, Wet Tropics, Brigalow Belt

Disclaimer: Appendix 1 is derived from the 2022 Census of Queensland Flora and Fungi. While current Census data should be relied upon, if a more recent version of the Census includes a ‘native and naturalised’ species other than above, please call the Vegetation Hub on 135VEG (13 58 34), or by email (vegetation@resources.qld.gov.au) to obtain its Bioregion information.

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