

# Cecropia spp. (Mexican bean tree)

**Description:** A rapidly growing tree to 20m with hollow stems and large deeply lobed leaves with flocked white undersides. There are distinctive leaf scars on the trunk. The female plant produces long finger-like flower spikes.

**Distribution:** Cecropia is restricted to an isolated outbreak in the Whyanbeel Valley where it was introduced as a garden specimen.

**Impacts:** A rapid growing rainforest pioneer which can invade and dominate rainforests and urban gardens. Cecropia is spread by birds and bats and so can be moved long distances into adjoining landscapes and forests.

**Key projects:** All known locations are the target of a regional eradication program led by Biosecurity Queensland. All suspected sightings of this plant should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act all sightings of Mexican bean tree must be reported, in addition it must not be kept, moved, given away, sold, or released into the environment.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Mexican bean tree under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

All suspected sightings of this plant should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

You are responsible to know what you are buying online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally introduce Mexican bean tree from a contaminated source.

#### In the eradication zone

All suspected sightings of this plant should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist BQ & DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

Undertake regular checks for recruitment along rainforest margins.

You are required to control all identified Cecropia plants on your property.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from Cecropia seed or plant material.

You are responsible for ensuring machinery and vehicles avoid known infestation areas or undertake appropriate wash down prior to leaving site.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Cecropia spp. (Mexican bean tree)

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**2**  
Must be reported

**3**  
Do not distribute

**4**  
Do not move

**5**  
Do not keep

Control



Spread



Flowering												
Seeding												
Spray												
Manual												
Cut stump												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key

- Peak ●
- First/last flush ●
- Occasional ●
- Optimal ●
- Good ●
- Marginal ●