

Duranta or Golden Dewdrop

Duranta erecta

(Non Restricted Invasive Weed)



Native to tropical America, duranta was introduced to Australia as an ornamental. It now invades disturbed areas of native vegetation and road embankments and is spread long distances by birds and the dumping of garden refuse.

Duranta is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

Description

Duranta is a vigorous shrub or small tree that grows to 7m high. It has drooping, spiny branches and leaves that are opposite, stalked, egg-shaped and 2–8cm long.

Blue tubular flowers, around 1cm long, occur in sprays up to 20cm long and develop into bright-yellow, round fruits that are 5–10mm in diameter.

Management

Hand pull seedlings and small plants, making sure you remove all the roots. Try to limit seed setting of larger plants until infested areas can be treated with herbicide.

If plants are cut down, the stump must be immediately treated with a suitable herbicide or the shrub will reshoot.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at [Queensland Government Website](http://www.qld.gov.au/weeds).