Golden dodder is a parasitic plant, robbing nutrients and water from its host plant.

This can severely damage the host plant, even causing its death. The tangle of thread-like stems can impact upon the aesthetics of a garden or landscape. Once established, the plant is very difficult to control.

The weed is also easily spread through the movement of infected pieces of the host plant or spread of the tiny seeds in soil, water or as a contamination of other materials. The seeds can lay dormant in the soil for years. Golden dodder tends to prefer legume plants (like clover, wattles and other pea plants).

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

Description

The weed is characterised by its thread-like yellow stems, which may appear green at times.

It can be confused with a native dodder, which is always green and has thicker stems (approx. 5mm thick). Flowers are small, white and non-descript, forming in small clusters.

The fruit is a small capsule, containing small seeds. The seeds germinate in the soil, and the young seedling needs to find a host plant nearby to attach onto. Failure to find a host will result in the death of the seedling.

Management

Control of golden dodder can be difficult, as the parasitic nature of the weed means that it fastens itself tightly to the host plant.

Parts of the host plant infested can be pruned back and the contaminated material disposed of. If the infested area is large, the entire area may need to be removed and re-established.

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