Paddy’s Lucerne (Non Restricted Invasive Weed)  
*Sida rhombifolia*

Paddy’s lucerne is a common, tough weed of roadsides, waste grounds, rocky areas, gardens, stock camps, overgrazed paddocks and sometimes bushland areas. It is unpalatable to stock and can reduce the carrying capacity of a pasture. The tough nature of the plant makes it difficult to slash and the deep taproot makes it hard to physically remove.

Paddy’s lucerne is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

**Description**

An erect herbaceous shrubby plant that with woody stems that can grow to 1m in height. The stems branch out several times bearing narrow diamond-shaped tough leaves that are darker on top than below.

The flowers are pale yellow and usually produced singularly on 1-3cm stalks. These develop into tough seed capsules. The plant also has a deep taproot.

**Management**

The most effective management approach for reducing paddy’s lucerne is to maintain a vigorous and strong pasture. The weed cannot withstand competition from a robust grass cover and will soon reduce back to scattered plants.

Repeated and regular slashing – especially before the plant sets seed – will reduce the infestations if they are dense. If the land is suitable, the area may be cultivated and a crop/grass cover re-established.

Hand pulling is only possible for seedlings.

Slightly larger plants may be hand pulled if the soil is moist; using a pair of pliers to grip the tap root below ground level.

Cutting or chipping the plant below ground level will have no effect and the plant will regenerate from the taproot.

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).