Silverleaf desmodium was introduced into Australia as a cattle fodder and has naturalised across much of the landscape where cattle grazing no longer takes place.

The weed can smother low growing vegetation, and becomes a problem in area where revegetation is being attempted.

The plant is also a nuisance weed, due to the hairs on the stems, leaves and seedpods which make the plant cling onto clothes and animal fur (hence the colloquial name of ‘Velcro-vine’).

**Description**

The plant is a perennial creeping vine, having trifoliate leaves (3 leaflets). These have a distinctive silver stripe along the midrib. The whole plant is covered with short whitish hairs that stick to clothing.

It produces pinkish pea-type flowers which develop into brown seed pods. The seed pods break up into segments.

**Management**

Seedlings and smaller plants can be hand pulled, bagged and disposed of at an appropriate waste management facility. Gloves should be worn, as hairs may irritate the skin.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at Queensland Government Website.