Yellow guava is native to tropical America. As an invasive weed it has become locally naturalised in bushland and coastal areas in Queensland. Yellow guava is a serious invasive weed in six other countries, being described as the third most prominent invasive alien woody plant along watercourses in coastal belts in South Africa.

Yellow guava is known to form dense stands, and its seeds are distributed by birds, mammals, livestock and people. Its fruits have traditionally been used for juices and jams and are still used commercially. Adding to its undesirable status, the yellow guava is host to the Papaya fruit fly in north Queensland. This makes removal and control of yellow guava a high priority.

Description

Yellow guava is a small tree up to 10m in height. It has spreading branches, and characteristic copper coloured bark which flakes away to reveal the pale green layer beneath.

The wide green leaves are oblong in shape, leathery, aromatic when crushed and downy on the underside.

Leaf dimensions are 7–15cm long and 3–5cm wide. The flowers are creamy white, and shed their petals to leave a tuft of yellow tipped stamens. The rounded fruits have yellow skins when ripe, with pinkish red flesh, and can be 5–10cm in length. Flowering occurs from September to February.

Management

Control of yellow guava can be difficult. Cut stems will re-shoot, and yellow guavas can sucker from their roots.

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

Reference: The State of Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2014, "PP101, Weed Busters Fact Sheet".