

Siam weed

Chromolaena odorata

KEY FEATURES



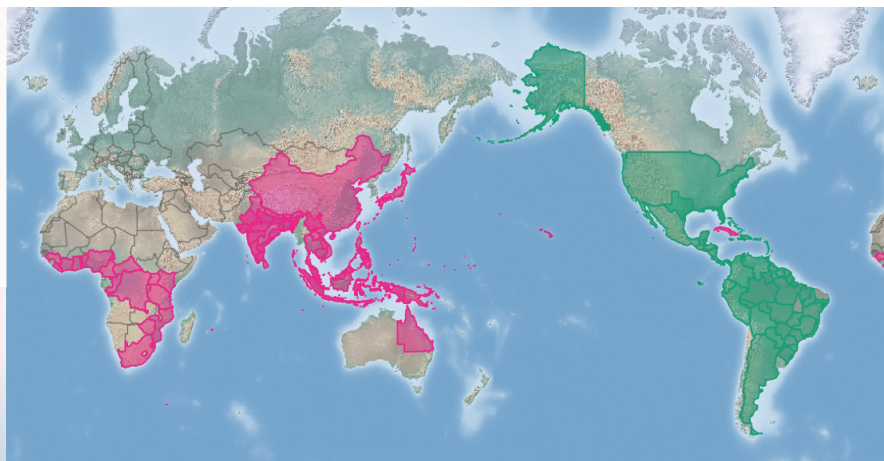
- Shrub with a bushy habit which forms a very dense thicket about 2 m high, excluding most other plants. Will climb on a support
- When growing alone, plants start to branch when they reach a height of about 120 cm
- Leaves are diamond to oval shape with a pointed tip and wedge-shaped base and serrated edges. Leaves and twigs smell when crushed
- The flower colour ranges from pale-lilac to white
- Each plant produces about 80,000 to 90,000 seeds, mostly spread by the wind, but can also cling to fur, clothes and machinery, enabling long distance dispersal
- Volatile oils in the leaves make it a fire hazard
- Can completely cover pastures and forest margins, excluding native species and low-growing crops including coffee and cocoa



PATHWAYS

- Introduced
- Native
- Origin not recorded

- Shipping
- Machinery/vehicles
- Seed containment



Siam weed

Chromoleana odorata

IMPACTS



Environment

Smothers low-growing crops like coffee and cocoa. Replaces pasture species. Poisonous to cattle. Acts as a host for insect pests. In regions where there are dry seasons can be a fire hazard



Health

Can transmit disease- causing fungi



Society and Culture

Uncontrolled fires can destroy plantations and villages



Economy

Depending on the length and the intensity of the dry season, represents a serious fire hazard to natural vegetation

DISTRIBUTION

Native range

Often noted as native to tropical Central and South America from Mexico and the Caribbean to Brazil, the exact limits of the native range are uncertain.

Introduced range

Much of southern Africa, eastern Asia, northern Australia and Cuba

SOURCES

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