

# Queensland poplar

## *Homalanthus populifolius*

### Family

Euphorbiaceae (spurge)

### Also known as

Bleeding heart tree, poplar leaved omalanthus

### Where is it originally from?

Australia, Papua New Guinea

### What does it look like?

Shrub or small tree (<5 m) with smooth, heart-shaped leaves (3-20 cm long) that turn red with age. Small and inconspicuous individual flowers occur in clusters of spikes (<17 cm long, Sept-Nov) are followed by smooth fruits (<8-10 mm diameter) made up of two sections with a groove in between, and two small 'antennae' that stick out from the top.

### Are there any similar species?

*Homalanthus polyandrous* has 3-angled, reddish fruit (10-12 mm diameter).

### Why is it weedy?

Produces large amounts of seed and is shade-tolerant.

### How does it spread?

Seed is spread by birds, water, and machinery, especially roadside mowers.

### What damage does it do?

Forms a sub-canopy and can displace native species by competing for light, nutrients, water and space.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Regenerating bush, forest margins, roadsides and waste places.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Grub out seedlings (all year round).
2. Cut and stump paint larger plants: picloram gel.
3. Spray smaller plants: metsulfuron methyl 600g/kg (5g/10L).

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Replant site with native species to prevent re-establishment.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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