

Cecropia

Cecropia spp.

Cecropia is native to Central and South America and the West Indies, but has naturalised in parts of Africa, Malaysia, India and Australia.

Northern NSW has a similar climatic range to these areas and is well suited to Cecropia invasion, as evidenced by isolated sites some distance from parent trees already sprouting seedlings in this area.



Distribution

In NSW, approximately 45 Cecropia trees have been found near Lismore, Burringbar and Murwillumbah, planted mainly as ornamental trees.

Numerous seedlings have also been found in surrounding areas where there are mature male and female trees.

Description

Cecropia is an evergreen tree up to 20m high, notable for its very large leaves and hollow trunk ringed with leaf scars.

The leaves are large, 10-60cm wide with 7-11 lobes, and have white hairs on the underside.

The male tree flowers have up to 12 spikes and the female tree flowers have 3-4 spikes.

The cylindrical fruit grows to between 3-4mm long and has a soft sweet flesh covering many small seeds.

Habitat

Cecropia prefer tropical climates, but will grow in subtropical and warm temperate areas.

Potential habitat ranges from North East Queensland through to the Far North Coast of NSW.

Reproduction and dispersal

Seed production is very high and large soil seedbanks can result. Each tree produces millions of seeds that can be dispersed by fruit bats and birds.

Cecropia are spread by seed, mostly when birds and bats eat the fruit. Some spread may occur through flowing water and transportation of seed-contaminated soil.



Cecropia *Cecropia* spp.



Declaration

Regional priority weed objective: Eradication

These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the State. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

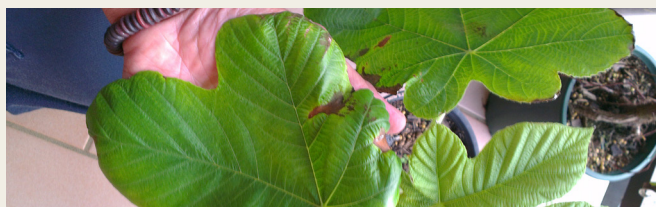
Control

Suspected *Cecropia* plants should be reported to the local council weeds officer.

If you have seen, or think you have seen, *Cecropia* please contact Rous County Council on (02) 6623 3800 for a positive identification and advice on removal and control.

Seedlings can be manually removed.

Other options available in the NSW Weed Control Handbook, seventh edition, available on the NSW Department of Primary Industries website.



For further information contact:

Rous County Council
02 6623 3800

www.rous.nsw.gov.au

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