

# Yellow bells

## *Tecoma stans*

Yellow bells are native to Mexico, Peru and Ecuador in Central and South America. It was introduced into Australia as an ornamental garden plant because of its large yellow flowers.

Yellow bells, a member of the *Bignoniaceae* (bignonia family), is also known as Yellow trumpet bush.



### Distribution

Infestations of Yellow bells can be found throughout the North Coast of NSW, with heavier infestations on the Richmond River, Lismore and Tabulam.

### Description

Yellow bells is a shrub that reaches an average height of 4m. This species is multi branched.

Leaves are 8-25cm long and are made up of 3-7 lance-shaped sharp-edged leaflets.

It is most easily recognised by its bright yellow trumpet-like flowers that grow in clusters at the end of its branches.

Flowers are normally 5cm long and are produced between September and March.

The plant produces numerous seed pods from spring until autumn. The pods are 10-22cm long and 10-20mm wide. The seed is yellow in colour and has white papery wings. Each pod contains hundreds of seeds.

### Habitat

Yellow bells has readily been found as a self-seeded plant in gardens or on roadsides. It invades disturbed, rocky, sandy and cleared areas of land. It also quickly establishes itself on creek banks and riparian areas where it forms dense monocultures.

### Reproduction and dispersal

Yellow bells is spread by wind-blown seeds and water movement. Human planting has also been a significant source of spread.

This weed was commonly planted on the North Coast of NSW because of its big yellow flowers, but has since escaped and become a highly invasive weed that displaces native vegetation and reduces pastoral areas and restricts stock access.



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### Declaration

#### Regional priority weed objective: Containment

These weeds are widely distributed in some parts of the State. While broadscale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

### Control

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

#### Chemical control

**Vigilant II**® (active ingredients: Picloram 44.7 g/kg + Aminopyralid 4.47 g/L)  
Undiluted.

Cut stump / stem injection application. Apply a 3-5mm layer of gel for stems less than 20mm. Apply 5mm layer on stems above 20mm.

No withholding period.

**Access**™ (active ingredients: Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L)  
1.0L in 60L of diesel.

Basal bark / cut stump application.

No withholding period.

#### Non-chemical control

Small seeds and seedlings may be manually removed.



(Photo source: Wikimedia Commons, Adityamadhav83.)



(Photo sources: Kim Curtis and Rhett Patrick.)

#### For further information contact:

Rous County Council  
02 6623 3800

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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