

# 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

- ✓ shipping
- ✓ machinery/vehicles
- ✓ seed contaminant

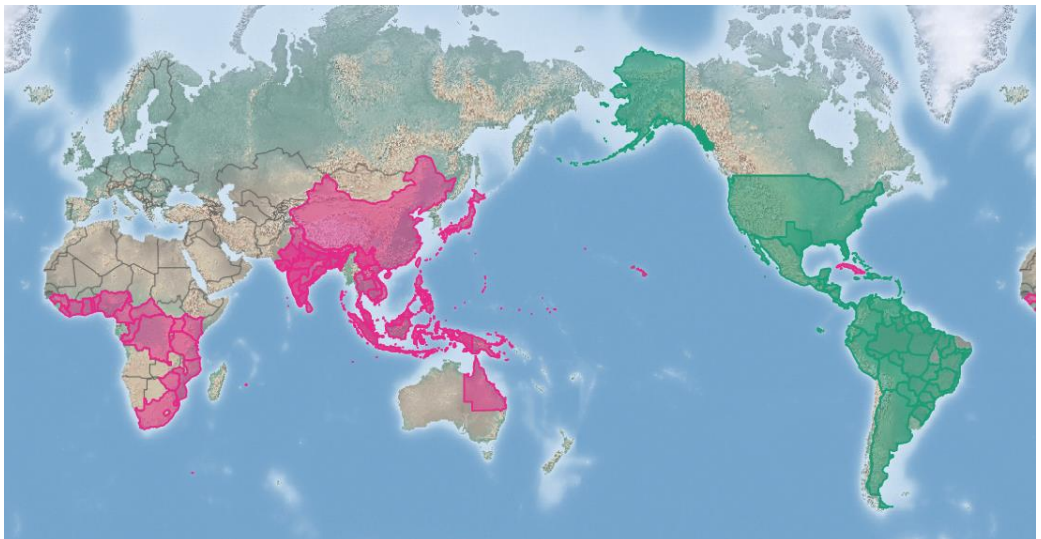
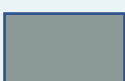
Introduced



Native



Origin not recorded



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*Chromoleana odorata*

## IMPACTS



### Environment

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



### Health

Can transmit disease-causing fungi



### Society & Culture

Uncontrolled fires can destroy plantations and villages



### Economy

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

## 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

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

## INFORMATION SOURCES (click links for more)

### Images

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### Text and map

*Chromoleana odorata* (Siam weed) – CABI <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/23248>  
Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromolaena\\_odorata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromolaena_odorata)