

SPECIES: *CHROMOLAENA ODORATA*

COMMON NAME: SIAM WEED / BITTER BUSH

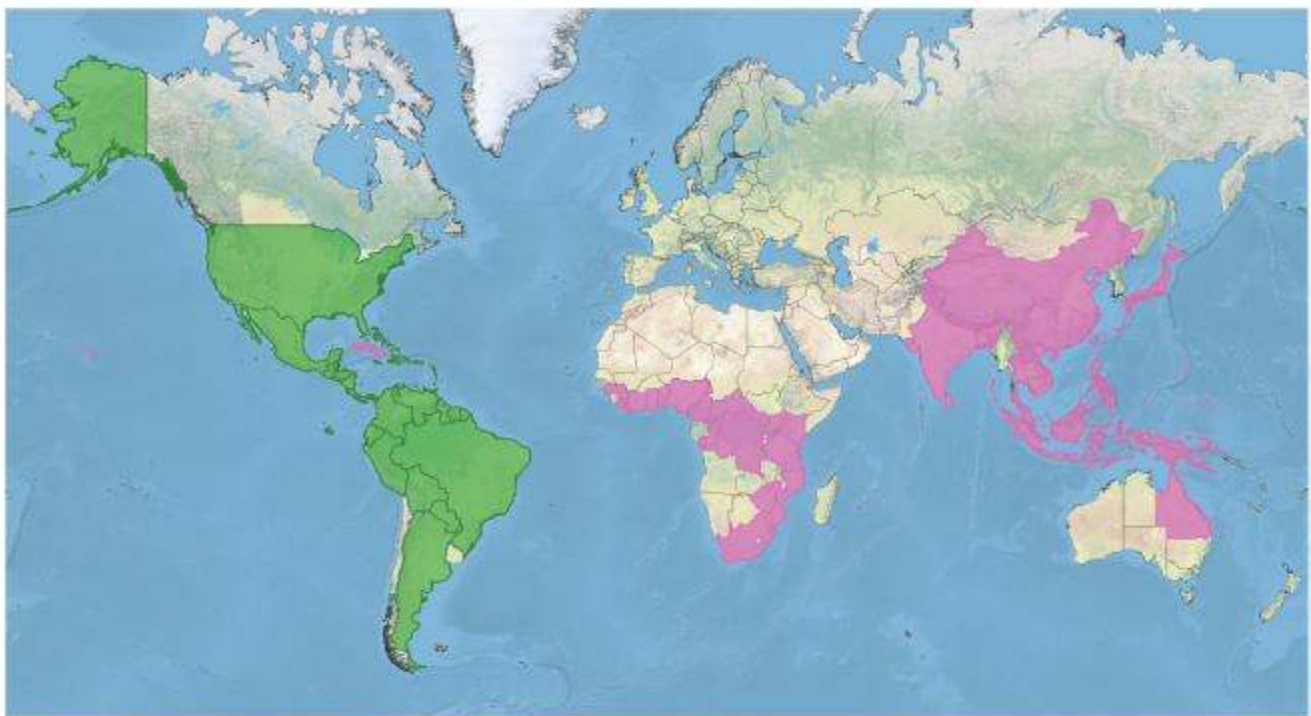
FAMILY: ASTERACEAE



Plant Description

It is a herbaceous perennial plant that can grow up to 2m in height, forming dense thickets. Stems become woody as they get older. The leaves are ovate in shape, but with pointed tips, and are distinctively 3-veined. The leaves are 5-14 cm long and 2.5-8 cm broad, and aromatic when crushed. The plant produces white to lilac-coloured flowers in clusters. It flowers and fruits profusely, and a single plant can produce around 30,000 seeds. It has also been seen that, in fully grown thickets, number of fruits per plant can go up to 2,00,000. Seeds are wind-dispersed, but can also be dispersed by animals or people (they stick to fur or clothes). It rapidly colonizes clearings and open areas, preventing other plants from regenerating.





CABI, 2022. *Chromolaena odorata*. In: Invasive Species Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/23248>
[#toDistributionMaps](#) [accessed: 25/01/2022]

■ Introduced
 ■ Native
 ■ Origin not recorded

***Chromolaena odorata* ASTERACEAE**

Origin: Central America, West Indies and South America

Introduction: It was introduced to Asia in the 1800s. In India it was introduced as an ornamental plant.

Impacts: It readily invades slash-and-burn fallows and prevents regeneration of secondary vegetation. It forms dense stands in forest clearings and competes with native species. It can increase fire risk in forests by adding to available fuel, and due to presence of volatile oils. It reduces yield of crop plants such as rice and wheat, and also invades pastures where it is toxic for livestock.

Management: Mechanical removal is expensive, and not effective, since the plant rapidly regrows from buried seeds. Chemical control with herbicides is effective but harms other species. *Aureobasidium pullulans*, a floral pathogen, has been identified as a biological control of *C. odorata* as this causes premature falling of its flowers. In parts of Africa and the Pacific islands, biological control using a leaf-feeding moth (*Pareuchaetes pseudoinsulata*), and a gall-forming fly (*Cecidochares connexa*) has shown some success.