



Botanical name: *Ageratum houstonianum*

Common name: Blue Billy Goat Weed, ageratum, blue mink, flossflower, goatweed.

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

Height: 0.3m to 1 m

Habit: Annual or biennial herbaceous plant

Leaves: Borne on stalks 0.5-3cm long and vary from being almost triangular in shape to egg shaped broader at the base. Leaves are 2-7cm x 1.5-6cm and bluntly toothed. Leaves are softly haired (pubescent).

Stem: The stems are rounded, green and pubescent

Flower: Terminal flower heads arranged in dense clusters and do not have obvious petals. Each flower-head has numerous tiny tubular flowers surrounded by greenish coloured bracts. The florets range from pale lavender, pink or

Seed: Reproduces mainly by seed that are dispersed by wind, water or animals, clothing and vehicles. The 'seeds' are about 2 mm long, brown to black in colour, and topped with five awn-tipped scales. These scales are whitish in colour and resemble short bristles or hairs.

Habitat & Environmental Impacts: An environmental weed in Qld and NSW that has invaded bushland and other natural environments resulting in substantial changes in native plant communities, displacing indigenous plants and native animals. It is particularly invasive along waterways and in riparian vegetation

Toxicity: It contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids so can affect the liver if consumed by herbivores.

Control: Foliar spray using an appropriate herbicide or manual removal.

Biosecurity duty: nil

Source:

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/blue-billygoat->

purplish. Flowering occurs throughout most of the year.

Fruit: about 2mm long brown to black in colour and topped with five wing-tipped scales. These scales are whitish in colour and resemble short bristles or hairs.

Habitat: Gardens, roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, pastures, crops, wetlands and waterways in the tropical sub-tropical, sub-tropical and warmer temperate regions of Australia.

[weed#:~:text=Blue%20billygoat%20weed%20\(Ageratum%20houstonianum,changes%20in%20native%20plant%20communities.](#)

[https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Ageratum_houstonianum_\(Blue_Billygoat_Weed\).htm#Naturalised%20distribution%20\(global\)](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Ageratum_houstonianum_(Blue_Billygoat_Weed).htm#Naturalised%20distribution%20(global))