

# Centro

## Centro

*Centrosema pubescens*

### Introduction

Centro was introduced from South America and now poses as a major weed threat on cane farms if not controlled in the younger stages of its growth. It is a perennial vine that can form a dense mat that smothers cane and causes problems during harvest. Due to the recent prolonged wet weather across the state this vine and many others have caused particular problems in stand-over cane. Centro is also known as butterfly pea.

### Description

The leaves are dark green in colour, with a trifoliate leaf configuration. Mature leaves measure 2 cm long and 1-1.5 cm wide. They are covered in a fine downy hair. Stems are green in colour and also covered in a fine hair; each stem can be as long as 3 metres. Large white to mauve pea flowers grow either as a single flower or in groups at the end of slender stalks from the leaf axils. The pods are 7.5-15 cm long, flat and brown when ripe, and hold up to 20 brownish-red seeds with black streaks.

### Management

The best way to control Centro is to apply a pre-emergent before it becomes a problem to your crop. However, there are options for control in the crop if the vine gets out of hand. All chemical control measures below are registered for this weed and you are advised to read the label of the selected chemical to choose the volume suited to your situation.

#### Pre-emergent control

- Diuron (468 g/kg) + Hexazinone (132 g/kg)(**Velpar K4**)
- Ametryn (400 g/kg) + Terbutryn (250 g/kg)(**Amigan WG**)

#### Post-emergent/recovery control

- Fluroxpyr (200 g/L)(**Acclaim**)
- Fluroxpyr (400 g/L)(**Comet 400**)
- Fluroxpyr (333 g/L)(**Starane**)
- 2,4-D (577 g/L)(**Actril DS**) + Diuron

- Terbutryn (275 g/L) + MCPA (160 g/L)(**Agtryne MA**) + Viking

For an integrated approach determine the source of the Centro infection (for example, overland water flow into the block reinfesting from another location) and devise a method to reduce this occurrence. In the example quoted, one option would be to develop a drainage solution that would divert water around the block.

All commercial sugarcane growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin Dry Tropics and Mackay Whitsunday catchment are required to meet mandatory requirements relating to herbicide products that contain ametryn, diuron, hexazinone or atrazine. For more information please refer to the Reef Wise Farming website ([reefwisefarming.qld.gov.au](http://reefwisefarming.qld.gov.au)).

Products containing diuron are subject to strict conditions of use, including district specific no-spray time periods. Please refer to Information Sheet IS13036 *New conditions of use for products containing diuron used in sugarcane*.

### Further information

For more information about controlling Centro on your farm please contact your local adviser.



1. Centro flowers.
2. Centro seed pod (source: [www.NatureLoveYou.sg](http://www.NatureLoveYou.sg)).
3. Centro leaves (source: [www.NatureLoveYou.sg](http://www.NatureLoveYou.sg)).