



# Cuphea, Colombian Waxweed

(*Cuphea carthagenensis*)

Lythraceae

**Origin:** South America

**How to recognise it:** Striking green colour. Leaves and stems feel sticky to touch due to sticky hairs

**Weed status:** Not declared noxious as too hard for farmers to get rid of once established. Introduced to Murwillumbah in 1970s and quickly becoming a common weed of native vegetation, pastures and amenity areas in the wetter parts of south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern NSW – particularly along waterways, swamps, wetlands or drainage lines but also in grassy areas.

**Control and prevention:** Remove by hand prior to seeding. (This means you need to inspect weekly any areas where it was previously present or you will never eliminate it as it builds up a soil seed bank as it has very long storage capacity.) It can be sprayed but it is better to pull it out and bag if it has flowers or seed developing.

**Location on Korinderie:** Only one place (below Mangoes) till 2013 – but has spread to 5 house sites between 2013 and Jan 2015. THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE URGENT PRIORITY.