

Check your property's Protected Plant Trigger Map for blue dots?

The map may indicate endangered, vulnerable or near-threatened (EVNT) native plant species exist on your property. Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) requires protection of these plants. Maps can be obtained from <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/map-request.php>.

Are you interested in knowing the name and description of these EVNT plant species?

Queensland Government's Wildlife Online provides a free web-based search of threatened and near-threatened species within a specified radius of a central coordinate or specified corners of an area of interest. Reports are available at <https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/report-request/species-list/>. Coordinates must be in decimal degrees (example shown on the request form), you can determine these using either Queensland Globe or Google Earth. Ensure you select 'Threatened and near-threatened status' in the rlist of report data options. A PDF report will be emailed to you.

To see photos of the EVNT plant species listed in your report use the Australasian Virtual Herbarium, http://avh.ala.org.au/search/#tab_simpleSearch.

Protected plants can occur in Category A, B, C, R and X vegetation, even if you have a PMAV in place. Before conducting any vegetation management activities within a blue dot area you will require the services of a suitably qualified person (eg. ecologist, botanist) to prepare a flora, unless an exemption applies. There are certain exemptions for clearing a protected plant in an agricultural area. Exemptions are listed here <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/agriculture-primary-industries-sector.html>

In summary, exemptions on agricultural land include:-

- Routine maintenance of existing infrastructure such as roads and buildings or ongoing cropping activity.
- Establishing or maintaining a firebreak.
- Clearing complies with self assessable code – weeds & encroachment.
- Removal of plants or plant parts to reduce imminent risk of serious injury to persons or imminent risk of damage to buildings.
- Re-clearing within 10 years, where the initial clearing was legally conducted under a protected plant clearing permit issue under the NC Act or following a flora survey.

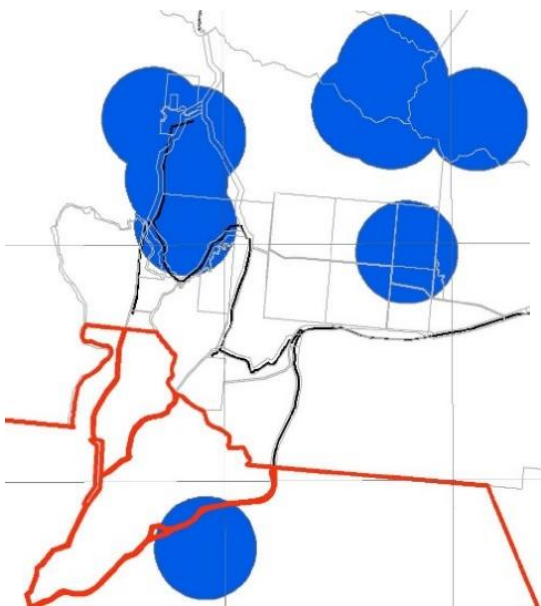


Figure 1. Protected native EVNT plants appear as blue dots on the protected plant trigger map. These are 2km buffers around the location of a recorded EVNT plant species. Check requirements before clearing in these blue areas. The search function in Queensland's Wildlife Online or Australia's Virtual Herbarium may provide some information on which plant species is present. A flora survey may be required.

Frequently asked questions:

What if no exemptions apply and the flora survey finds there is EVNT species present in the area I want to clear? If the flora survey shows finds an EVNT species is present, then a clearing permit will be required before clearing can occur. Protected Plants clearing permits are issued by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science.

What if your property is not covered by a blue dot, but you are aware of the presence of an EVNT species? If the entire area to be cleared is shown as white on the flora survey trigger map, but you are aware there are endangered, vulnerable or near-threatened plants within the area to be cleared (or clearing would occur within 100m of the EVNT plant), then a clearing permit will be required before clearing can occur.

For more information on protected plants: <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/>