

Check your property's Protected Plant Trigger

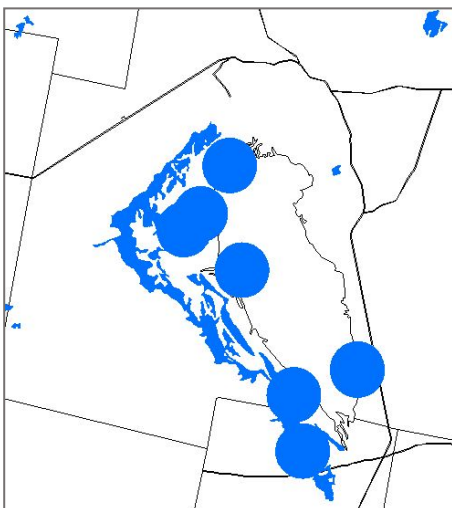
Flora survey trigger maps indicate endangered, vulnerable or near-threatened (EVNT) native plant species may exist on your property. Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) requires protection of these plants. Maps can be obtained from <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/map-request.php>.

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 list of report data options. A PDF report will then 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 regulated native vegetation and Category X non-remnant vegetation, even if you have a Property Map of Assessable Vegetation PMAV in place. Before conducting any vegetation management activities within a trigger area you may require the services of a suitably qualified person (eg. ecologist, botanist) to prepare a flora survey and obtain a clearing protected plant permit, unless an exemption applies. Exemptions for agricultural areas 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 Accepted Development Vegetation Clearing Codes ADVCC for 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 issued under the NC Act or following a flora survey.

Figure 1. Protected native EVNT plants appear as blue on the protected plant trigger map (*pictured*) or green if using Qld Globe mapping. These are 2km buffers around the location of a recorded EVNT plant species. **In June 2019, revised maps were released by the Department of Environment and Science which also included highly suitable habitat for EVNT plant species. Maps are updated annually by the Department**

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.

Can I amend a high risk area on a flora trigger map?

You can request the Department of Environment and Science to amend the trigger map for a period of ten years, if a flora survey was conducted by a suitably qualified person within the last 12 months and no EVNT plants within 100m of the area. Amending a trigger map is not an authority to clear protected plants in the area.

For more information on protected plants: <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/protected-plants/> or phone 13 74 68.