

SAMADERA BIDWILLII – Threatened plant of the Fraser Coast

October 2011

Who am I?

Quassia (*Samadera bidwillii*) is a shrub or small tree which occurs mainly along creek and river banks and more rarely along ridgelines. The Quassia can be present in disturbed areas such as roadsides and paddocks in the harshest of conditions.

What do I look like?

The Quassia often suckers from the roots with the plants coming back after intensive grazing or disturbance. The branchlets are ribbed with fine pale brown hairs. Leaves are stiff and narrow to elliptic or lanceolate around 5 to 18cm long. The leaf's upper surface is dark green but lighter green beneath. The fruit is a drupe around 1cm long with short hairs and sometimes with the appearance of being winged.



Where do I live?

I am found along the banks and gullies leading into Tinana and Gutchie Creeks and the Mary River. In Hervey Bay I grow in rural areas of Wondunna and Nikenbah with a separate population occurring in vine forest areas at River Heads.



Quassia may be damaged by development

Why am I threatened?

Quassia is a native plant that is restricted to only a small part of Australia. It has been impacted by past land management practices. Historically Quassia was thought to be poisonous to livestock thus being selectively removed from properties.

Quassia also appears to be haphazard in its seeding habits, with only some plants shedding viable seed each season.

Current threats include clearing for development, grazing, fire and the precarious position of some of the plants located in roadside verges.

What Council is doing to protect me?

Council is currently undertaking activities such as:

- Seed collection and propagation;
- Conducting botanical surveys for new populations;
- Placing conditions on development approvals;
- Protecting and restoring threatened habitat; and
- Developing interpretive and educational material.

What is my status?

Quassia is classed Vulnerable and protected under the Federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and State *Nature Conservation Act 1992* as well as Council planning regulations