



## MOTHER OF MILLIONS

**Scientific Name:** *Bryophyllum delagoense*  
*syn. B tubiflorum, Kalanchoe delagoensis*  
*and Bryophyllum x houghtonii*

Mother of Millions is a **Category 3** restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO).

### References for further reading

- [Mother-of-millions \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](http://daf.qld.gov.au)
- [Mother-of-millions | Business Queensland](#)
- [NSW WeedWise](#)
- [Mother of Millions - Weeds Australia](#)

### General information

Mother of Millions is a toxic, upright succulent plant growing to 1.8m high. It is a short-lived perennial that reproduces both by seed and vegetatively via plantlets along its leaf margins that easily dislodge to form new infestations. Its drooping orange-red flowers occur during winter and early spring as a cluster at the top of a single stem. All parts of the plant are poisonous to livestock, especially the flowers. Each Mother of Millions plant can produce up to 20,000 seeds that remain viable for numerous years in the soil.

*Bryophyllum delagoense* has grey-brown, fleshy tubular-like leaves and produces plantlets at the tip of each leaf.

*Bryophyllum x houghtonii* has boat-shaped leaves with thick stalks and produces plantlets along the leaf margins and old flower clusters.

Mother of Millions establishes well in leaf litter and other debris on shallow soils in shady woodlands, and on disturbed soil such as fence lines and roadsides. Being a succulent, it is adapted to dry conditions and can survive periods of drought.

## At risk in the Lockyer Valley region

- Human and animal health
- Livestock production
- Native areas and habitats
- Value of land assets



### How it spreads

- By gardeners and in garden waste.
- Its tiny seeds - by wind, through waterways and flood events.
- Its dislodged leaves, leaf parts and plantlets - by animals, vehicles, machinery, soil and slashers.

### Its impact

- Forms extensive populations in grasslands and open woodlands.
- Reduces available pasture for livestock production.
- Is very toxic to livestock if grazed, causing illness and sometimes death, especially during flowering.
- Degrades natural areas, reducing habitat for native fauna.
- Decreases the value of land assets.

## THE CONTROL OPTIONS

*The General Biosecurity Obligation requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of spreading Mother of Millions and the establishment of new infestations.*

### What do I need to do?

- Learn to recognise Mother of Millions before it flowers and sets seed, so early action can be taken. Each average-sized plant can produce up to 20,000 seeds that remain viable in the ground for numerous years.
- Reduce the risk of Mother of Millions spread from your property by establishing weed free buffers along property boundaries, entrances and drainage areas (sites where vehicles, people and animals regularly access).
- Establish and maintain property weed hygiene practices, such as spelling new stock in holding yards and stock feeding in locations that enable regular monitoring for new infestations.
- Manage animal numbers and grazing rate to maintain a dense cover of pasture.
- Continue to monitor for infestations and treat before it sets seed.

### For small, isolated infestations

- Act immediately to prevent the infestation becoming worse.
- Wearing gloves to protect the skin from the plant's toxin, dig out or hand pull without dislodging any seeds, plantlets or leaf parts.
- Bag then solarise the plant and dispose at a waste facility or bury to a depth that does not allow re-establishment (*Biosecurity Regulation 2016, Section 11*).
- Spot spray the weed using a selective herbicide, as per label or permit directions.

### For larger, scattered infestations

- **In open areas**, spot spray the weed and surrounding soil using a selective herbicide that has a residual action, as per label or permit directions. The residual herbicide will reduce seed germination.
- **In wooded areas**, spot spray the weed using a selective herbicide, with no residual action, as per label or permit directions. This type of herbicide will not stop the germination of young native seedlings.
- Manage animal numbers and grazing rate to maintain a dense cover of pasture.

### For larger, dense infestations

- Consider using fire to reduce the infestation and seed bank, then follow up with spot spraying of survivors with a selective herbicide as per label or permit directions. Contact Rural Fire Service for permit and assistance.
- Rest the paddock during the spring - summer growing period to allow grasses to set seed and re-establish new pasture.