

**Queensland Government
Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F)**

Media Release

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St Johns Wort – medicinal plant goes feral

Be wary for infestations of St Johns Wort this Weedbuster Week – forget herbal medicine – it’s an extremely invasive perennial herb.

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) land protection officer, Troy Crittle from Warwick, said now was the best time to catch these invasive plants, as the bright yellow flowers begin to appear in spring through to summer.

“St Johns Wort flowers are 2cm in diameter and have five petals, while the leaves have translucent glands when held up to the light,” he said.

“The seeds of this invasive weed are small and sticky, and can be easily dispersed by attaching to machinery and animals or by water.

“Small infestations are being actively controlled on the southern Darling Downs and Granite Belt, but we need to be mindful of the weed outside this area.”

Although there are claims of health benefits for people, St Johns Wort is poisonous to livestock, causing photosensitisation (where exposed skin becomes abnormally sensitive to bright sunlight) and affecting the nervous system. It is also a strong competitor with native vegetation.

To get involved in weed management and awareness activities during Weedbuster Week (September 1-7) or for more information on weedbusting in your local area, visit www.weedbuster.info

For more information about St Johns Wort, visit the DPI&F website www.dpi.qld.gov.au under “Weeds & pest animals”.

Caption: St Johns Wort. File photograph



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