



## Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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### Jerusalem thorn (442)

Relates to: **Weeds**



Photo 1. Mature tree, *Parkinsonia aculeata*.



Photo 2. Close up mature tree, *Parkinsonia aculeata*.



Photo 3. Leaves, *Parkinsonia aculeata*.



Photo 4. Close up leaves, *Parkinsonia aculeata*.



Photo 5. Flowers, *Parkinsonia aculeata*.



Photo 6. Close up, flowers, *Parkinsonia aculeata*.

### Summary

- Widespread. Africa, Asia, North, South and Central America, Caribbean, Europe, Oceania. In Australia, FSM, Guam, New Caledonia.
- Invasive, large amounts of seed, tolerates range of soils, even those seasonally flooded. Found near creeks, rivers, bores and dams in semi-arid regions, but also grasslands, open woodlands, rangelands, pastures, waste areas, disturbed sites and roadside. Prevents cattle accessing water.
- Grows mostly 2-6 m, smooth, single or multi-stems that zigzag. Young stems with spines below each leaf. Leaves, up to 30 cm long, flat, green, long leaf stalks, with many, small, oblong leaflets. Flowers, up to 20 mm across with four yellow petals, and one erect orange or orange-spotted petal. Seed pods, long, straight with 1-4 seeds, occasionally more.
- Spread: suckers; seed by birds, cattle, water, vehicles.
- Biosecurity: high risk of introduction. In Australia, 'restricted invasive plant': *do not release into environment, give away or sell.*

- Biocontrol: two seed beetles, a leaf bug, a leaf-feeding looper have some potential.
- Cultural control: hand weeding, mechanical (use of chains, bulldozers); fire; restrict movement of sand and soil.
- Chemical control: choice of foliar, cut-basal-bark, soil or trunk treatments, depending on proximity to water, and size. In Australia: triclopyr + picloram; triclopyr + picloram + aminopyralid; picloram + aminopyralid. In Fiji, glyphosate.

## Common Name

Jerusalem thorn; It is also known as Barbados flower-fence, horse bean, jelly bean tree, or parkinsonia.

## Scientific Name

*Parkinsonia aculeata*. It was known previously as *Mimosa bimocronata*. It is a member of the Fabaceae.

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Adapted from Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) (2018) Weeds of SE Qld and Northern NSW. Lucidcentral. (<https://www.lucidcentral.org/editors-pick-animal-and-plant-identification-keys/key-to-weeds-of-se-qld-and-northern-nsw>); and additional information from *Parkinsonia aculeata*. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkinsonia\\_aculeata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkinsonia_aculeata)); and Parkinsonia - *Parkinsonia aculeata* (2003) Weed management guide. Weeds of national significance. CRC for Weed Management, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Heritage, and the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines. (<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/p-aculeata.pdf>); and Parkinsonia: declared pest (2019) Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/declared-plants/parkinsonia-declared-pest>); and from Parkinsonia - Jerusalem thorn or jelly bean tree (2016) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Biosecurity Queensland. ([https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/55040/IPA-Parkinsonia-PP36.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/55040/IPA-Parkinsonia-PP36.pdf)). Photo 1 Hectonichus *Parkinsonia aculeata* - Athens, Greece; Photo 2 John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org; Photos 3&4 Karen A. Rawlins, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org; Photos 5&6 William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org

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The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

