

Prioritization process report¹ for : *Acalypha australis* L.

Acalypha australis was added to the EPPO Alert List in 2025. The EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants prioritized *A. australis* during the 31st meeting of the Panel in 05-2026. The output of the prioritization process is that *Acalypha australis* is added to the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants and is a priority for PRA. Further studies on its potential impact in the United States are anticipated in 2026/27 and therefore a PRA for this species will be considered in 2027. This report was reviewed and approved by the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants in 2026.

Section A - Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment

26-31101

Init1. Enter the name of the pest

Acalypha australis

Init2. Indicate the taxonomic position and synonyms

Preferred name: *Acalypha australis* L

Common names: südliches Kupferblatt [de], three-seeded copperleaf [en], three-seeded mercury [en], enokigusa [ja], エノキグサ [ja], amigasasô [ja], アミガサソウ [ja], 깨풀 [ko], kkae pul [ko], акалифа южная [ru], tiě xiàn cài [zh], 铁苋菜 [zh]

| - Plantae
 |-- Magnoliophyta
 |--- Angiospermae
 |---- Fabids
 |----- Malpighiales
 |----- Euphorbiaceae
 |----- Acalyphoideae
 |----- Acalypha
 |----- Acalypha australis

Init3. Clearly define the area for prioritization

EPPO region (Albania, Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guernsey, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jersey, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Republic of North Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan).

Init4. Provide the reasons for performing this prioritization, and detail any prioritization reports available for the assessed species.

¹ Using EPPO (2012) PM 5/6 EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants. EPPO Bulletin, 42, 463-474.

Acalypha australis is listed as an EPPO Alert List species since 2025.

A.1. Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?

Yes

Acalypha australis is native to China, Japan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Laos, Philippines, Russian Federation (Far East), Vietnam

A.2. Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment?

Yes, use the justification tab to describe the area where the species is established, and the area of potential establishment, considering major factors such as climatic conditions and soil conditions.

Acalypha australis is recorded in the following EPPO countries: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Italy (including Sicily), Russian Federation (Far East), Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

A.5. How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?

High

Natural spread via seed can promote local spread of the species. However, it is unlikely that the seed can be spread over long distances as there is no evidence of seed being wind dispersed or spread by birds eating seed. *Acalypha australis* can be spread as a seed and grain contaminant. Additionally, *A. australis* has the potential to spread via agricultural practices including movement of machinery and equipment.

A.6. How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

List natural and semi-natural habitats where the species is known to occur based on the EUNIS habitat categorization (<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats-code-browser.jsp>),

Low

Acalypha australis is mainly a weed of cultivated land and waste areas. It is also found in anthropogenic areas. There are no reports of the species having negative impacts on biodiversity.

A.7. How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

The habitats and the situations in which the species has negative impact on agriculture, horticulture or forestry should be listed. It includes EUNIS habitats (<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats-code-browser.jsp>).

High

There are a number of examples where *A. australis* is reported as a problem in agricultural systems.

In the risk assessment conducted by the USDA, it is quoted that: "This weed is highly harmful to crops, despite its small size" (citation in AgroAtlas, 2010). Reported to be a very harmful weed in Japan, but specific impacts are not described (Reed, 1977). "Damages cotton, melons, pulses, root and tuberous crops, and vegetables" (Zhirong, 1990). It is a dominant weed in maize, growing at densities of 10 to 100 plants per square meter (Zuo et al., 2008). *Acalypha australis*, in conjunction with other weeds, has been reported to decrease maize yield from 10 to 20 percent,

and even up to 50 percent (Zuo et al., 2008). In conjunction with two other weed species, it decreases maize yield (Li et al., 2006). Although none of these sources are very specific in describing the types of impact, because there were multiple sources, answering “yes”, but with “high” uncertainty.

In Korea, *A. australis* was shown to have a negative impact on soyabean yield where it decreased yield by 11 - 51 %.

A.8. How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?

Low

There is no evidence of further impacts

Conclusion.

- The answer provided to question A.5 on the spread potential of the species assessed was: **High**
- The answer provided to question A.6 on negative impact on native species, habitats and ecosystems was: **Low**
- The answer provided to question A.7 on negative impact on agriculture, horticulture or forestry was: **High**
- The answer provided to question A.8 on additional impacts was: **Low**
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According to the ratings provided, the assessed species falls into the:

List of invasive alien plants (GO TO Section B)

Section B - Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1. Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

List the pathway(s) as justification. Yes, at least one international pathway is identified.

Acalypha australis seed may be a contaminant of seed and grain. These pathways constitute international pathways.

B.2. Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

Yes

These seed contaminant pathways are superior to natural spread.

B.3. Does the plant species still have a significant area suitable for further spread in the area under assessment?

Large area suitable for further spread

Currently, in the EPPO region, *A. australis* is not a widespread species and there is further area suitable for its spread.

Acalypha australis is a priority for PRA.

Selected References

- EPPO (2012) PM 5/6 EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants. *EPPO Bulletin*, **42**, 463-474.
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