

BRYOPHYLLUM SPP. IN QUEENSLAND¹

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The Stock Routes and Rural Lands Protection Board requested a state wide survey to determine the distribution and importance of *Bryophyllum*¹ spp. in Queensland. A Technical Bulletin titled 'Mother of Millions and Its Control' has been prepared displaying the plants in the *Crassulaceae* family associated with poisoning of livestock in Australia. The three naturalized taxa are commonly encountered as introduced garden succulents and readily escape through their ability to produce new plantlets from the edges of their leaves.

Mother of millions (or mission bells or Christmas bells) (<i>Bryophyllum tubiflorum</i>)	Pencil-shaped leaves about 5 mm diameter and 5 cm long, greyish with purple flecks usually bearing 7 or less plantlets towards the end. Spikes of reddish, tubular, flowers about 3 cm long on stems 0.5 - 2.0 m tall.
Hybrid or cross bred mother of millions (<i>Bryophyllum daigremontianum</i> x <i>B. tubiflorum</i>)	Boat-shaped, elongate-triangular leaves about 4 cm long by 1.5 cm wide, fawnish with purple flecks usually bearing more than 7 plantlets along the serrated margins. Flowers similar to <i>B. tubiflorum</i> but slightly smaller and yellower.
Resurrection plant (or Green mother of millions or live leaf) (<i>Bryophyllum pinnatum</i>)	Opposite leaves with up to 5 elliptic green leaflets 4 - 10 cm long and 2 - 5 cm wide with scalloped margins. Flowers tubular, up to 7 cm long, greenish often tinged with scarlet.

Herbicide trials have shown that all three species are controlled by 5 L ha⁻¹ 2,4-D, MCPA or DP60 plus surfactant at 1 mL L⁻¹ of spray solution to ensure wetting of all waxy surfaces.

A survey of the distribution and importance of these and other *Bryophyllum* or *Kalanchoe* spp. is being conducted among 134 Local Authorities in Queensland. Replies are still coming in with some concerned Shires such as Jericho worried about the spread of mother of millions over 1500 ha from the Town Reserve down the headwaters of the Channel Country with recent floods. Many Shires claim they have no *Bryophyllum* spp. growing in their area yet on recent field trips we have found them growing usually in shaded gardens and abandoned blocks in every town from the humid coast to the dry tropical and temperate interior of western Queensland.

Some Shires have publicised mother of millions in their local newspapers to get information on the extent of infestations. Most Shires appear reluctant to have any of the *Bryophyllum* spp. declared noxious unless this entails State finance for a containment scheme. A better approach maybe to educate people not to discard potential weeds from their garden into neighbouring bush but to properly destroy them in council dumps.

¹*Bryophyllum* spp. are included by some taxonomists in the genus *Kalanchoë*.