



Balloon or Heart seed vine

Cardiospermum grandiflorum

DECLARED CLASS 3



The problem

Balloon vine is a densely-growing, climbing herb. The main mode of climbing is via the extensive tendrils, which twirl around supporting structure and other plants. Infestations of this weed smother other plants and prevent them from receiving the sunlight they need to photosynthesise. It is commonly found in south-east Queensland along waterways, roadsides and in disturbed sites. Forest edges are likely sites for invasion, and the vines will often grow right into the canopy of the trees.

Description

Balloon vine is named for its fruits, which occur as inflated capsules with pointed tips. When mature, these balloon-shaped capsules split and release the three black heart-shaped seeds encased within. This vine can grow up to 8 m high in the canopy. The leaves are made up of nine leaflets, which have toothed margins and are dark green in colour. Flowers are small and white, growing in clusters with tendrils at the base and in leaf axils.

Management strategies

Manual removal is recommended for small infestations, pulling the plants out by the roots. Thicker growth may require using a brush hook or similar tool to bring down the top part of the plant. Regrowth is common, and a combination of manual and chemical control may be required.

Declaration details

Balloon or heart seed vine is a declared Class 3 plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. The Act prohibits the supply or sale of Class 3 plants and may require their removal from environmentally significant areas.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF BALLOON OR HEART SEED VINE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump and paint	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 part to 2 parts water 10 mL in 20 mL water	PERMIT 7485	Apply in spring and summer. Apply second application if necessary.
Spot spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	500 mL per 100 L water	PERMIT 7485	
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	4 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 7485	
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (625 g/L)	3 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 7485	

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.

Fact sheets are available from DPI&F service centres and the DPI&F Information Centre phone (13 25 23). Check our web site <www.dpi.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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