

Invasive plants and animals

Broadleaved pepper tree

Schinus terebinthifolius



DECLARED CLASS 3



The problem

The broadleaved pepper tree is invading coastal dune areas, wetlands and along stream banks. It harbours a disease which can kill mangroves. The tree is choking out native plants and is becoming a serious problem. Broadleaved pepper tree is a garden escapee and native to Brazil.

The broadleaved pepper tree can also affect human and animal health as it contains toxic resins. Contact with the sap can cause persistent swelling, rashes, welts, running sores, swollen faces, colic and haemorrhages in the eyes. The pollen can cause respiratory difficulty.

Description

Broadleaved pepper trees can grow into a large spreading tree, up to 10 m high and broad. The leaves consist of 5–9 dark green leaflets and at the ends of the branches are small whitish flowers, followed by bunches of glossy, round red fruits 6 mm across. There are male and female trees, so not all bear fruit.

Management

Birds are attracted to the trees bright red berries and are the main method of spread of this tree. Removal should be done in winter. Revegetation of the cleared area should be pre-planned to ensure that other weeds do not gain a foothold in the disturbed area, and should include mulching to keep weeds down.

Hand pull or chip out young plants.

If the tree is chopped down be prepared for it to regrow and the roots to sucker, sometimes for up to six months. Treat these as they occur. Try cutting 2 inches below the soil, chip away all the bark and nail a tin plate down over the stump. Sometimes the plant won't start to regrow until 18 months after initial chopping.

Broadleaved pepper tree can be put through a wood chipper to make mulch.

Declaration details

Broadleaved pepper tree 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 BROADLEAVED PEPPER TREE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Basal bark spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	35 mL per 1 L diesel or kerosene	PERMIT 7485	Spray or paint the chemical on the full circumference of each stem.
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 L per 1 L water	PERMIT 7485	Paint within 15 seconds of cutting
Foliar spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	500 mL per 100 L water	Registered	Winter application or while the tree is in berry, providing that no replanting of desirable broadleaf plants is intended for 6 months.

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

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 website <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.

© The State of Queensland (Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries) 2008