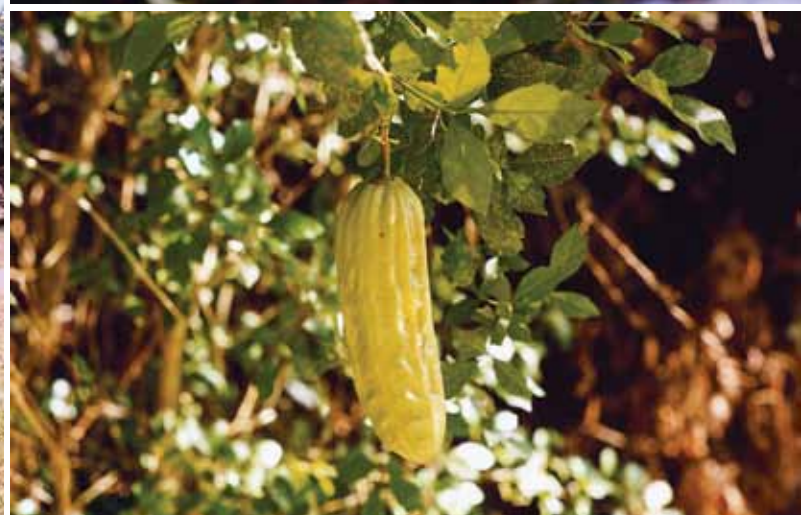


Cucumber tree

Parmentiera aculeata



Photos courtesy Ken Murray



Native to Central America, cucumber tree was introduced as an ornamental for its edible fruits. It has invaded rainforest in some Far North Queensland catchments, outcompeting native rainforest trees and replacing native vegetation.

Declaration details

Cucumber tree is a not declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*; however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Description and general information

Cucumber tree is a small to large tree with a short, thick trunk and pale bark. Branches have short, stout spines at nodes. Leaves are compound, opposite, trifoliate, on long narrowly-winged leaf stalks, with three elliptical leaflets each 4–8 cm long.

Flowers appear in leaf axils, along branches and on the trunk on the old wood. They are trumpet-shaped, green with brown-purple lines and 5–6.5 cm long. Yellow-green cucumber-like fruit are ridged, red-stained, 11–17 cm long and 2–3 cm wide, and often curved.



Queensland Government

Control

Manual control

Seedlings can be manually removed. If larger plants are cut down or ringbarked the stump must be treated with a suitable herbicide as the tree will otherwise reshoot.

Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of cucumber tree in Queensland; however, there is an off-label use permit (Permit No. PER11463) that allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

It is important to note that specific research on the use of herbicides to control cucumber tree has not been undertaken to date. Therefore, the treatment options outlined in Table 1 are suggestions only, based on registered controls for similar weeds in non-agricultural areas and the specifications of PER11463. As such, their effectiveness cannot be guaranteed.

Prior to using the chemicals listed under PER11463 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit contact your local council weed inspector or visit www.apvma.gov.au

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. Permit number PER11463 expires on 30 June 2014. While the permit may be extended beyond this date, there is no guarantee that it will, so contact your local council weed inspector for the latest information after the expiry date.

Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.deedi.qld.gov.au).

Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of cucumber tree

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Stem inject Inject at intervals of 6–8 cm around the base of the tree during the active growth period The cut of the injection must be through the bark and deep enough to place the chemical in contact with the sap wood Apply the chemical immediately after the dose pocket is made	Triclopyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	1 L per 4 L water 1.5 ml per injection	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Ensure that any trees treated with herbicide will not cause a hazard for people or public utilities when they finally fall Read permit carefully prior to use
Basal bark or cut stump to less than 10 cm above the ground	Triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Basal bark spray	Fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	35 ml per 1 L diesel/kerosene	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Spot spray Young trees	Fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	500 ml to 1 L per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use

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

Source: PER11463

Fact sheets are available from Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) service centres and our Business Information Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.deedi.qld.gov.au to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet 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 use 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, DEEDI does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.