

Invasive plants and animals

Dutchman's pipe

*Aristolochia elegans***DECLARED CLASS 3**

The problem

Dutchman's pipe is an environmental weed that is widely promoted as an unusual, easily cultivated ornamental plant. It is a popular novelty in gardens and suburban backyards and has naturalised in several areas of Queensland and northern New South Wales. As an environmental weed, Dutchman's pipe has a preference for moist, fertile soils making it a prime invader of rainforest habitat.

Dutchman's pipe is similar to the natives *Pararistolochia praevenosa* (formerly known as *Aristolochia praevenosa*) and *Aristolochia acuminata* (formerly known as *Aristolochia tagala*), which are natural food plants for a number of Australian butterflies.

Dutchman's pipe however is a deadly alternative, tricking butterflies into laying their eggs on its leaves, and then poisoning the larvae when they hatch and begin to feed. The survival of the rare Richmond birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) is threatened by this occurrence. Never plant this species in your garden. Consider using the native species in your garden instead.

Description

Dutchman's pipe is a fast-growing vine that can reach 3 m in length. The common name arose from the distinctive flowers that are shaped like a traditional Dutchman's pipe. These flowers are strikingly coloured reddish-purple and marked with white and yellow. Leaves are up to 75 mm long, glossy green and heart-shaped, growing closely to form a dense mat of foliage. The woody stems are slender and twine tightly in coils around any supporting structure.

Management strategies

Manual removal may be the only suitable method of control available for this weed. Small plants can be pulled or dug out, ensuring that the crown and the roots are removed. Vigorous growth may be cut down using a brush hook or other such tool, preferably before seeds set. Trace vines to their main crown and cut with a knife well below this growing point, removing all parts of the plant from the soil. The plant can be controlled with a herbicide.

Declaration details

Dutchman's pipe 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 DUTCHMAN'S PIPE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 part product to 2 parts water (e.g. 10 mL in 20 ml water)	PERMIT 7485	Apply in spring. Apply second application if necessary
Foliar application	glyphosate (360 g/L)	10 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 7485	Apply up to twice a year. Apply only when the supporting plant and under-storey is dead. Apply early autumn (March-April). Do not spray beyond the point of run-off.

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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