

# Elephant ear vine

*Argyreia nervosa*



Photo courtesy Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals project and Cook Shire Council

Native to Burma and India, elephant ear vine is commonly cultivated in home gardens. It is an aggressive invader of rainforest and other tropical forest communities.

## Declaration details

Elephant ear vine 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

Elephant ear vine is a robust climber with woody stems. It can overtop trees to 10 m high.

Young stems and leaf undersides have dense white downy hairs. Leaves are heart-shaped and up to 25 cm wide with prominent venation.

Flowers appear in clusters and are lavender to pink (the throat darker), trumpet-shaped and 5 cm across. Has round white berries.

## Control

### Manual control

Dig up isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent reshooting.

### Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of elephant ear vine 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.



Queensland Government

It is important to note that specific research on the use of herbicides to control elephant ear vine 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](http://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](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au)).

**Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of elephant ear vine**

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spray	Triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	350 ml to 500 ml per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Spot spray (young plants less than 2 m)	2,4-D (300 g/L) + picloram (75 g/L)	1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent	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: Infopest 2009 + PER11463 + product labels

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](http://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.