

Invasive plants and animals

Ochna or Mickey mouse plant

Ochna serrulata

The problem

Ochna is another example of an ornamental species escaping into bushland. A native of Africa, it has been widely planted in Australian gardens for its strikingly attractive flowers. Ochna is easily dispersed to new areas when birds eat the fruits and spread the seeds. In south-east Queensland, this weed is commonly seen invading bare areas of disturbed riparian habitat.

Description

This weed grows as a small, erect shrub up to about 1.5 m tall. It is a woody shrub, and has an angled tap root that is easily broken when hand pulled. Leaves are up to 5 cm long, narrow and glossy with serrated margins. New growth usually has a bronze tinge. Flowers are bright yellow with five petals. These petals fall off, leaving five sepals which turn scarlet red when the fruits appear. Fruits are initially green, turning glossy black in summer.

Management

For young seedlings hand pulling is generally the most successful method of control. Take care not to break the tap root. Larger individuals may need to be grubbed out with a mattock.

Declaration details

Ochna or Mickey mouse plant is not a 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.

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 OCHNA OR MICKEY MOUSE PLANT

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Basal bark spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	35 mL per 1 L diesel	PERMIT 7485	
Basal bark spray	triclopyr (600 g/L)	17 mL per 1 L diesel	PERMIT 7485	Basal bark spray plants up to 2 m high.
Cut stump, paint, basal bark spray	triclopyr (240 g/L) and picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	Registered	Paint stump immediately after cutting.
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Apply undiluted	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.