

Invasive plants and animals

Small leaf or Chinese privet

Ligustrum sinense**DECLARED CLASS 3**

The problem

Chinese privet has been widely distributed in Australia as a garden hedge plant. Its berries are eaten by birds, thus aiding its dispersal. In natural systems the densely branched growth habit of this weed poses a significant shading threat to native plants in moist, temperate areas of south-east Queensland. Over time, this exclusion of native plants may be detrimental to native animals. Stands of this weed may also grow sufficiently thick to hinder animal movement through the bushland. Chinese privet produces masses of heavily scented white flowers that cause severe allergic reactions in susceptible people.

Description

Chinese privet is a large shrub growing to about 4 m tall. The finely hairy leaves are deep green in colour, oval shaped and up to 5 cm long. Young branches are often covered in fine hairs like those found on the leaves. Flowers are very small, but produced in dense cream sprays up to 10 cm long. Berries are produced after the flowers and are dark blue to black in colour.

Management strategies

Small plants may be hand pulled, and moist soil will make this task easier. Be careful not to break the tap root or the plant will regrow.

Declaration details

Small leaf or Chinese privet 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 SMALL LEAF OR CHINESE PRIVET

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 L in 1 L water product	Registered	For plants 0–30 cm in diameter
Cut stump	triclopyr (600 g/L)	1 L product in 12 L diesel	Registered	
Basal bark spray	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L product in 60 L diesel	PERMIT 7485	
Stem injection	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Use undiluted	Registered	0–25 cm basal diameter – 1 mL per 2 cm cut 25–60 cm basal diameter – 2 mL per 2 cm cut
Foliar spray	metsulfuron methyl (600 g/kg)	10 g per 100 L water plus added wetting agent	Registered	Apply to bushes up to 2 m high. Complete spray coverage is essential.
Cut stump	picloram (43 g/kg) e.g. Vigilant®	Apply a layer 3–5 mm thick over cut surface	Registered	Cut stems no higher than 100 mm above ground level. Stems > 20 mm in diameter, apply 5mm thick. In multi-stem plants treat at least 80% stems including all main stems.

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.