

Invasive plants and animals

Umbrella tree *Schefflera actinophylla*



The problem

The umbrella tree is native to northern Queensland, north of the tropic of Capricorn. In its natural ecosystem it has maintained a balance with other native species, however, when it is grown in southern Queensland, this fast growing invader out-competes local native species. It is a prolific seeder, invading national parks, remnant bushland, undisturbed forests and reserves, causing harm to the local ecosystems' flora and fauna.

It is commonly grown as an ornamental in backyards as it has a unique look and attracts birds.

Unfortunately, these birds can rapidly spread the seeds, particularly through native bushland. The roots of umbrella trees can pressurise building foundations and block plumbing joints and pipes.

These disadvantages can be overcome by growing local native species, instead of this invasive plant from a foreign ecosystem. Appropriate species may include Celery Wood, Leopard Ash, Native Tamarind, and Wheel of Fire.

Description

This fast-growing, evergreen tree reaches heights of 15 m growing easily in shady areas, as well as in sunlight. It produces a spike of red flowers, which mature into seeds that are readily distributed by fruit eating birds.

Management strategies

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is undertaking research to improve control methods. However, we must all do our bit in removing this invasive pest.

Declaration details

Umbrella tree 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 UMBRELLA TREE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status
Cut stump, or paint basal green bark	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1 L per 12 L water	PERMIT 7485
Drill, frill, axe or stem injection	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water Apply 1 mL per 2 cm cut	PERMIT 7485
Drill, frill, axe or stem inject	metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/kg)	Undiluted to 1 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut	PERMIT 7485
Basal bark	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	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.