

Invasive plants and animals

Wild tobacco tree

Solanum mauritianum



The problem

A native of South America, wild tobacco is a woody weed that commonly invades forest edges, regrowth vegetation, pastures and disturbed sites in coastal Queensland and New South Wales. Native birds and flying foxes spread the seeds, and the plant germinates easily. Wild tobacco is an opportunistic weed, and easily out-competes natural vegetation in regrowth or disturbed areas. It is also thought to be toxic to livestock if eaten in sufficient quantities.

Description

Wild tobacco grows into a small tree up to 4 m tall, with large felt-covered sage green leaves up to 30 cm long and 15 cm wide. The leaves have a strong smell when crushed, and the stems of the plant are green when young, becoming woody as the plant matures. Wild tobacco bears purplish blue flowers in flat topped bunches, with small round berries that turn from green to yellow as they ripen.

Management strategies

Small seedlings can be hand pulled when soil is moist. Larger plants can be grubbed out.

Declaration details

Wild tobacco 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 WILD TOBACCO TREE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L) e.g. Access®	1 L per 60 L diesel	Registered	
Cut stump	picloram (43 g/kg) Vigilant	Wipe on gel at least 3–5 mm thick.	Registered	
Foliar spray	triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L) e.g. Grazon DS	350 mL per 100 L water	Registered	Spray plants up to 2 m tall during spring to autumn.
Foliar spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	300 mL per 15 L water	Registered	Pasture legumes including lucerne, clover and medics may be damaged unless well protected by grasses.

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

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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