Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Biosecurity Queensland

Restricted invasive plant

African tulip tree

Spathodea campanulata

The African tulip tree is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street tree in tropical and subtropical parts of Queensland due to its showy, red tulip-shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in Coastal Queensland, where they are highly invasive and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation.

African tulip trees are extremely harmful to native stingless bees and a public safety hazard (when these trees are planted along footpaths, their dropped flowers can create a slippery walking surface). The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural areas.

Legal requirements

African tulip tree is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). This fact sheet gives examples of how you can meet your GBO.

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Queensland Government

Description

African tulip tree is a fast growing evergreen tree that can grow up to 24 m in height. It has broadly oval-shaped leaves that are strongly veined, bronze when young and a deep, glossy green when mature. African tulip trees produce large flat clusters of velvety, bronze-green buds and large orange-red flowers with yellow frilly edges. Reddish-brown seed capsules are produced and can be up to 20 cm in length.

Life cycle

Flowering occurs mostly in Spring but can occur all year round. Will germinate from seed as well as sucker from damaged roots.

Method of spread

Mostly by people planting it as an ornamental tree. Spread by birds, on water and wind.

Habitat and distribution

Native to tropical Africa, African tulip tree is a fast-growing evergreen tree. It is widespread in tropical and subtropical Queensland where it is a popular ornamental garden tree and street tree.

Control

Managing African tulip trees

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by African tulip trees. This factsheet information and some options for controlling African tulip trees.

Manual control

Young African tulip trees can be dug out or hand-pulled when the soil is moist. Stumps of felled trees need to be treated with herbicide due to their ability to sucker.

Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of African tulip tree in Queensland; however, an off-label use permit allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides 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 visit www.apvma.gov.au

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of African tulip tree

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 25 g/L (Tordon ReqrowthMaster)	1 L per 4 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2018	Drill, frill, axe or stem inject
	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Slasher)	1 L per 4 L water		Drill, frill, axe or stem inject
	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 25 g/L (Tordon ReqrowthMaster)	50 mL per 1 L water		Cut stumps to less than 10 cm above the ground and immediately: • paint stump after cutting • spot spray cut stump Follow-up treatment needed on suckers
	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Slasher)	50 mL per 1 L water		Cut stumps to less than 10 cm above the ground and immediately: • paint stump after cutting • spot spray cut stump Follow-up treatment needed on suckers
	Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L per 60 L diesel		Either paint stump immediately after cutting or paint or spray basal bark
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup)	Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut		Drill, frill, axe or stem inject

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

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.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, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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