

CONTROL OPTIONS FOR

CHINESE/GOLDEN RAIN TREE

Koelreuteria paniculata and *Koelreuteria elegans* ssp. *formosana*

Both *Koelreuteria paniculata* and *Koelreuteria elegans* ssp. *formosana* have been planted widely as ornamental garden and landscaping trees. Golden Rain Tree is common in Gympie streets: there is an avenue of the trees at Central School, one by the Post Office & five-ways roundabout, another at One Mile School. They are medium sized trees growing 5 to 15 m tall. Their bright yellow flower clusters in late Spring and early Summer are followed by papery fruit capsules that turn from red to pink and copper as they mature, giving a spectacular Autumn display.

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL ALERT LIST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS. UNCONTROLLED IT THREATENS AUSTRALIA'S BIODIVERSITY AND IS LIKELY TO CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE.

THE PROBLEM

Koelreuteria is a fast growing species that grows vigorously in a wide range of environmental conditions. In the 1990s it was recognised as a naturalised environmental weed in Brisbane, where it had invaded urban parks, road-sides, bushland and creeks. It is now classed as an environmental weed in south eastern Queensland and north eastern New South Wales.

Originating in Taiwan (*Koelreuteria elegans*) and China (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) these trees are also considered a problematic weed in Japan and warmer parts of the USA. There are differences in the leaves and seed capsules of the two *Koelreuteria* species. However, distinguishing between the two species is not easy, and both have potential to become serious environmental weeds.

Koelreuteria elegans has been placed on a National Alert list for Environmental Weeds. It can be effectively controlled and eradicated because its range is currently limited. In Brisbane it has been marked for eradication. Ipswich Regional Council has named both species as environmental weeds and offered rebates for the costs of removal and control. In NSW new outbreaks must be reported to Council Weed Control Agencies. In Gympie it is important to become proactive in removing the plants.

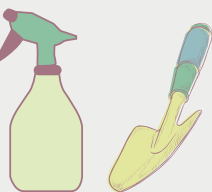
How the weed spreads

Golden Rain Tree has mainly spread by deliberate planting in gardens and as a street tree. Once established these trees produce plentiful balloon-like seed capsules that are blown from the trees, and can be spread further by floating down creeks and streams. The plant is also spread by seeds dumped with garden waste and dispersed by birds.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Prevention is the most cost-effective form of weed control, especially while Golden Rain Tree is in an early stage of naturalisation.

- Remove Golden Rain Tree from gardens and street plantings and replace them with non-weedy alternatives.
- Hand-pull young plants.
- For larger plants cut down the tree and apply herbicide to the cut stump. Read and follow all instructions on the herbicide label. Removal prior to seed formation minimises further seed dispersal.



HAND-PULL SPROUTING PLANTS



Gympie & District
LANDCARE

ALTERNATIVE NATIVE PLANTS FOR GARDENS

Water Gum

(*Tristaniopsis laurina*)



TYPE	Medium shade tree to 8m
ASPECT	Light shade to full sun
SOIL	Well drained soils

A compact shade tree with glossy leaves, smooth pale tan bark, and a profusion of bright yellow flowers in Spring and Summer that attract both birds and butterflies. Well suited to planting as a street tree and in small gardens.

Water Gum grows in a wide range of conditions and soil types but needs ample water and reasonable drainage. It naturally grows along creek banks and rainforest edges in light shade to full sunlight, with growth more rapid in full sun. It rarely reaches a maximum height of 15 metres. It can take pruning. Some varieties take on a multi-trunked mallee form.

Brown or Plum Pine

(*Podocarpus elatus*)



TYPE	Medium tree to 12m
ASPECT	Full to filtered sun
SOIL	Well drained soils

A moderate sized specimen tree 8 to 12m tall often planted as a park or street tree. Brown Pine has male cones and female flowers on separate trees. Plant two or more to benefit from fruit. The 1.5cm fruit are versatile with a grape like texture. They can be eaten raw or cooked into jams and sauces. Plum Pine's wood is strong and valued for furniture and carpentry. Brown Pine grows well in a wide range of climatic conditions and soil types as long as the site is well-drained. The trees are tolerant of frost, but young seedlings can be susceptible. Small applications of native fertiliser in Spring promotes a new growth flush.

White Cedar

(*Melia azedarach*)



TYPE	Medium tree to 15m
ASPECT	Full to filtered sun
SOIL	Grows well in most soils

A deciduous tree naturally growing in and around rainforest. It provides excellent shade in the warmer months, while allowing good sunlight in winter. In Spring White Cedar produces white to mauve perfumed flowers in large panicles that are followed by 15mm oval shaped yellow fruit. The fruit are a favoured food of cockatoos but can be poisonous to some livestock.

White Cedar grows readily in most soils and can tolerate clay. The young trees are frost tolerant. Can be grown in either full or filtered sun.

Lemon Myrtle

(*Backhousia citriodora*)



TYPE	Small tree to 8m
ASPECT	Full to filtered sun
SOIL	Grows well in most soils

A medium sized tree about 8m high with dense foliage even close to the ground and profuse white flowers in summer. It makes an excellent screening plant and small shade tree, with the benefit of lemon-scented leaves that can be used as flavourings in both savoury and sweet dishes, cordials and teas. Lemon Myrtle is grown commercially for its lemon-flavoured oils.

Lemon Myrtle grows well in both full and filtered sun and a variety of soil types including clays. It is frost tolerant and fire resistant. However, it can produce root suckers that you may want to remove or carefully dig to grow additional plants.



Gympie & District Landcare Group
Corner of Groves & Old Maryborough Roads,
Gympie, Queensland, 4570

Ph: 07 5483 8866

Email: admin@gympielandcare.org.au

Website: www.gympielandcare.org.au

Gympie & District Landcare operate a community nursery and biocontrol raising facility. The site is attended Wednesday to Friday and Saturday mornings.



**Gympie & District
LANDCARE**



**GYMPIE
REGIONAL
COUNCIL**