Dutchman’s pipe
*Aristolochia elegans*

Dutchman’s pipe is an environmental weed that is widely promoted as an unusual, easily cultivated ornamental plant. Dutchman’s pipe is a popular novelty in gardens and suburban backyards and has naturalised in several areas of Queensland and northern New South Wales. As an environmental weed, Dutchman’s pipe has a preference for moist, fertile soils making it a prime invader of rainforest habitat.

Dutchman’s pipe is similar to the natives *Pararistolochia praevenosa* (formerly known as *Aristolochia praevenosa*) and *Aristolochia acuminata* (formerly known as *Aristolochia tagala*), which are natural food plants for a number of Australian butterflies.

Dutchman’s pipe however is a deadly alternative, tricking butterflies into laying their eggs on its leaves, and then poisoning the larvae when they hatch and begin to feed. The survival of the rare Richmond birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) is threatened by this occurrence. Never plant this species in your garden. Consider using the native species in your garden instead.

**Legal requirements**

Dutchman’s pipe 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.
**Description**

Dutchman’s pipe is a fast-growing vine. The common name arose from the distinctive flowers that are shaped like a traditional Dutchman’s pipe. These flowers are strikingly coloured reddish-purple and marked with white and yellow. Leaves are up to 75 mm long, glossy green and heart-shaped, growing closely to form a dense mat of foliage. The woody stems are slender and twine tightly in coils around any supporting structure.

**Life cycle**

Flowering occurs mostly in the summer with seed set late summer.

**Methods of spread**

Mostly spread by humans, also by wind, water and gravity.

**Habitat and distribution**

Native to South America (i.e. Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Argentina). Primarily a weed of rainforests, closed forests, urban bushland, disturbed sites, roadsides, waste areas, waterways and forest margins in tropical and sub-tropical regions. It is also a potential weed of plantation crops.

Dutchman’s pipe is naturalised in the eastern parts of Australia, where it is relatively widespread. It is common in the coastal districts of southern and central Queensland, scattered in the coastal areas of northern Queensland, and sparingly naturalised in the north-eastern corner of New South Wales (i.e. near Casino). Also naturalised on Christmas Island. Widely naturalised in the tropical regions of the world (e.g. Zimbabwe, South Africa, Hawaii, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Fiji, the Cook Islands and south-eastern USA). Suspected of poisoning livestock. Also considered a problem in Australia as birdwing butterflies, Ornithoptera priamus and Ornithoptera richmondi, lay eggs on this plant in mistake for their native Aristolochia and Pararistolochia hosts. Eggs hatch but larvae are unable to develop on Dutchman’s pipe.

**Control**

**Managing Dutchman’s pipe**

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by Dutchman’s pipe. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling Dutchman’s pipe.

**Physical control**

Manual removal may be the only suitable method of control available for this weed. Small plants can be pulled or dug out, ensuring that the crown and the roots are removed. Vigorous growth may be cut down using a brush hook or other such tool, preferably before seeds set. Trace vines to their main crown and cut with a knife well below this growing point, removing all parts of the plant from the soil. The plant can be controlled with a herbicide.

**Herbicide control**

Herbicides are most effective if sprayed before plants reach maturity. There is no herbicide currently registered for control of Dutchman’s pipe 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 Dutchman’s pipe

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration status</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo)</td>
<td>1 part product to 2 parts water (e.g. 10 mL in 20 mL water)</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 (Permit expires 30/06/2018)</td>
<td>Cut stump Apply in spring Apply second application if necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo)</td>
<td>10 mL per 1 L water</td>
<td></td>
<td>Foliar application Apply up to twice a year Apply only when the supporting plant and under-storey is dead Apply early autumn (March-April) Do not spray beyond the point of run-off</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Consult the table and formulae at the end of PER11463 for rates for other formulations of glyphosate.

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

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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.