Native to tropical America, laurel leaf pidgeon wings is a perennial forb/climber. In North Queensland, laurel leaf pidgeon wings has aggressively invaded paperbark swampland, displacing the natural ground cover. Hard seeds could remain viable in the soil for around 10 years, germinating after fire.

Legal requirements

Laurel leaf pidgeon wings is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in their 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

Laurel leaf pidgeon wings is a perennial forb/climber with slender twining stems to 2 m long and growing up to 1 m high. The root is a thick woody rootstock. Young growth has silky hairs.

It has dark green trifoliate leaves with oval, blunt leaflets, 8 cm × 4 cm, very fine hairs on underside of leaflets. Purple to nearly white pea-shaped flowers, 3–3.5 cm long, in clusters in the leaf axil with only a couple open at any one time. Fruit is a slender pod and contains hard seeds.

Control

Manual control

Hand pull isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent reshooting.
Herbicide control

Larger infestations should be treated with herbicide.

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of laurel leaf pigeon wings 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

Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

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 laurel leaf pigeon wings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray</td>
<td>Dicamba 200 g/L</td>
<td>500 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dicamba 500 g/L</td>
<td>200 mL (on mature) to 1 L (on regrowth) per 100 L water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,4-D 300 g/L + picloram 75 g/L</td>
<td>1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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