Invasive plant

White moth vine

Araujia sericifera

White moth vine is quick to wrap its tendrils around any supporting structure, including other plants. White moth vine poses a smothering threat to native plants, with its thick, tangled growth. Native to Brazil, white moth vine has been recorded as a weed in several countries. In south-east Queensland, it is usually found in rainforest remnants, vine scrubs and wet sclerophyll forests. White moth vine can be problem in disturbed sites and is often seen draped over fence lines. If damaged, the leaves and stems exude a smelly, milky latex, which may cause an allergic reaction in some people.

Legal requirements

White moth vine 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 under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants 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.

Queensland Government

Description

White moth vine is a vigorous, woody creeper with a shallow root system. It can climb to about 7 m tall. Leaves are triangular, opposite, up to 10 cm long, with a white underside. Flowers are bell-shaped and vary from white, pink and violet colour. Flowers have five sepals, 8–13 mm long and five petals, 18–20 mm long. The fruits are a large egg-shape, 6–12 cm long, 3–7 cm wide, resemble a choko. When fruits dry, they split open when ripe, releasing a profusion of wind-borne seeds on silky hairs. Seeds are blackish topped with long white silky hairs, 20–30 mm long.

Management strategies

It is advisable to wear gloves when manually removing white moth vine, due to the irritating latex.

It is best to cut the roots at least 10 cm below the ground and dispose of all removed material at an appropriate council landfill site.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of white moth vine in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control white moth vine as an environmental weed in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this permit (PER11463) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit 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 biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of white moth vine

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	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	Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Fluroxypyr 200)	1 L per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023	Spot spray
	Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Fluroxypyr 200)	35 mL per 1 L diesel or kerosene		Basal bark spray

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

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