Ochna or Mickey Mouse plant

*Ochna serrulata*

Ochna is another example of an ornamental species escaping into bushland. A native of Africa, it has been widely planted in Australian gardens for its strikingly attractive flowers. Ochna is easily dispersed to new areas when birds eat the fruits and spread the seeds. In south-east Queensland, this weed is commonly seen invading bare areas of disturbed riparian habitat.

**Declaration details**

Ochna is not a declared pest plant under Queensland legislation. A local government may declare ochna under it’s own local law.

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**Description and general information**

Ochna grows as a shrub that is erect and woody up to about 1.5 m high. Leaves are up to 5 cm long, narrow and glossy with serrated margins. New growth usually has a bronze tinge. Flowers are bright yellow with five petals. These petals fall off, leaving five sepals which turn scarlet red when the fruits appear. Fruits are initially green, turning glossy black in summer. Root is an angled tap root that is easily broken when hand pulled, hence plant easily reshoots.
**Management strategies**

For young seedlings hand pulling is generally the most successful method of control. Take care not to break the tap root. Larger individuals may need to be grubbed out with a mattock.

**Further information**

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

### Table 1 Herbicides permitted for the control of ochna

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration details</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basal bark spray</td>
<td>fluroxypyr (200 g/L)</td>
<td>35 mL per 1 L diesel</td>
<td>PERMIT 11463</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basal bark spray</td>
<td>triclopyr (600 g/L)</td>
<td>17 mL per 1 L diesel</td>
<td>PERMIT 11463</td>
<td>Basal bark spray plants up to 2 m high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut stump, paint, basal bark spray</td>
<td>triclopyr (240 g/L) and picloram (120 g/L)</td>
<td>1 L per 60 L diesel</td>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>Paint stump immediately after cutting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut stump</td>
<td>glyphosate (360 g/L)</td>
<td>Apply undiluted</td>
<td>PERMIT 11463</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit read and comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions unless otherwise sated in the permit. The above permit can be used by persons generally in Queensland.

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

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) 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, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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