Ochna is an 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.

**Legal requirements**

Ochna 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.
**Description**

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. Root is an angled tap root that is easily broken when hand pulled, hence plant easily reshoots.

**Control**

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.

**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of ochna**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural non-crop situations, commercial and industrial areas, forests (including softwood plantations), pastures and rights-of-way</td>
<td>Fluroxpyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced)</td>
<td>600 mL/100 L water</td>
<td>Foliar spray Plants up to 2 m high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>600 mL/10 L water</td>
<td>Low volume, high concentration application. Isolated plants to 1 m high only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.1 L/100 L diesel</td>
<td>Basal bark spray plants up to 2 m high and 10 cm basal diameter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Herbicide control**

One product, Starane Advanced, containing 333 g/L fluroxpyr is registered for control of ochna in Queensland.

**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.