

Ochna or Mickey Mouse plant

Ochna serrulata



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.



**Queensland
Government**

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. 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.

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

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

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



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

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