

Red Christmas pride

Ruellia graecizans



Native to South America, red Christmas pride was introduced to Far North Queensland as an ornamental. It is shade-loving and invades disturbed areas of rainforest and creek banks.

Legal requirements

Red Christmas pride 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

Red Christmas pride is a wiry sub-shrub that grows to 60 cm with a dense, bushy, spreading habit.

Leaves are opposite, grow to 12 cm long, becoming smaller towards the top of the plant and are glossy green, narrowly oval and hairless.



Bright red, swollen, tubular flowers that are streaked yellow inside appear in small clusters on long stalks in the leaf axils. Petals are up to 3 cm long.

Control

Manual control

Hand pull seedlings and small plants, ensuring that all stem fragments and roots are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent reshooting.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of red Christmas pride in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control red Christmas pride 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.

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 biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of red Christmas pride

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	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Glyphosate 360) And other formulations	1 L per 100 L water For other formulations consult PER11463	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023	Spot spray
	Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Fluroxypyr 200)	500 mL to 1 L per 100 L water		
	Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (e.g. Starane Advanced)	300–600 mL/100 L water		
	Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Conqueror) or Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L + aminopyralid 8 g/L (Grazon Extra)	350 mL to 500 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil		

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

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Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at 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, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

