This plant is native to South America and is listed as a weed in several countries around the world. In Australia, baby pepper is found at a number of localities on the east coast, primarily along the edges of rainforest and in vine scrub, where it displays a preference for shaded areas. Following disturbance of the natural vegetation, this species interferes with the re-establishment of native rainforest plants. Birds are the main dispersal method as they eat the fruit and spread the seeds. This species germinates readily from seed.

**Legal requirements**

Baby pepper 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 and animals under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals 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

Baby pepper is an erect, short-lived herb that grows to about 1 m tall. Stems are quite woody at the base. The plant is supported by a tap root and a lateral root system. Flowers occur in the upper leaf stalks of mature plants. These flowers vary in colour from white to pink with a greenish tinge, and are grouped in narrow spike-like formations. Leaves are up to 10 cm long, lance-shaped and bright green in colour. The leaves grow on alternate sides along the stem and taper to a pointed tip. When damaged or crushed, the leaves emit an unpleasant odour. Fruits occur in the form of round, bright red berries that may occur at any time throughout the year. Each berry contains a single seed.

Control

Physical control

Individual plants should be hand-pulled and placed in a large garbage bag. Take care to remove seed heads and fruits to minimise new growth. Bags of plant material may be left in the sun for a period of weeks, to allow the green matter to rot. Bags should then be buried at an appropriate council landfill site. Control should ideally be performed before the plants have the chance to form berries or flowers.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of baby pepper in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control baby pepper 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 www.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 baby pepper or coral berry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration details</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and</td>
<td>Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Flagship 200)</td>
<td>500 mL per 1 L water or 5–10 L/ha</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023</td>
<td>Spot spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacant lots, wastelands, dunal and coastal areas</td>
<td>Fluroxypyr 140 g/L + Aminopyralid 10 g/L (e.g.</td>
<td>500 mL/100L water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotshot)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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