A native to forest clearings in Ghana, sweet prayer plant was originally imported for the production of a natural sweetener—the flesh of the fruit is 2000 times sweeter than sugar.

It is a weed of tropical rainforest margins, disturbed rainforest and creek lines near gardens. It reproduces from seeds and suckers.

**Legal requirements**

Sweet prayer plant 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

Sweet prayer plant is a perennial shrub that grows up to 2 m high.

Its characteristic large, dark-green, oval leaves grow to 45 cm in length. Pale purple flowers are produced on short (15 cm) basal spikes, followed by reddish fruits.

Control

Manual control

Hand pull small plants. Make sure the whole root system is removed and either take it from the site or hang it out of contact with the soil.

Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of sweet prayer plant in Queensland; however, an off-label use permit allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of sweet prayer plant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray</td>
<td>Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg</td>
<td>10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,4-D 300 g/L + picloram 75 g/L</td>
<td>1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td>Permit expires 30/06/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Glyphosate 360 g/L</td>
<td>1 L per 100 L water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imazapyr 250 g/L</td>
<td>200 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prior to using the herbicides listed under 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](http://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 [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

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 [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://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, DAF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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