

Sweet prayer plant

Thaumatococcus daniellii



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 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

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

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 sweet prayer plant

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	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	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	APVMA permit PER11463 (Permit expires 30/06/2023)	Spot spray
	2,4-D 300 g/L + picloram 75 g/L (e.g. Tordon 75-D)	1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent		
	Glyphosate 360 g/L And other formulations	1 L per 100 L water For other formulations consult label or PER11463		
	Imazapyr 250 g/L (e.g. Unimaz 250 SL, Warrant)	200 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent		

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.

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.

