Native to Central America, cucumber tree was introduced as an ornamental for its edible fruits. It has invaded rainforest in some Far North Queensland catchments, outcompeting native rainforest trees and replacing native vegetation.

**Legal requirements**

Cucumber tree 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**

Cucumber tree is a small to large tree with a short, thick trunk and pale bark. Branches have short, stout spines at nodes. Leaves are compound, opposite, trifoliate, on long narrowly-winged leaf stalks, with three elliptical leaflets each 4–8 cm long.
Flowers appear in leaf axils, along branches and on the trunk on the old wood. They are trumpet-shaped, green with brown-purple lines and 5–6.5 cm long. Yellow-green cucumber-like fruit are ridged, red-stained, 11–17 cm long and 2–3 cm wide, and often curved.

**Control**

**Manual control**

Seedlings can be manually removed. If larger plants are cut down or ringbarked the stump must be treated with a suitable herbicide as the tree will otherwise reshoot.

Take care to ensure your own and others safety when trimming or lopping bamboo near power lines.

For electrical safety information visit worksafe.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety.

**Herbicide control**

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

<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 industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights of way, vacant lots, wastelands, dunal and coastal areas</td>
<td>Triclopyr 200 g/L + picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Slasher) Or Triclopyr 200 g/L + picloram 100 g/L (Tordon RegrowthMaster)</td>
<td>1 L per 4 L water 1.5 mL per injection</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2023</td>
<td>Stem inject Inject at intervals of 6–8 cm around the base of the tree during the active growth period. The cut of the injection must be through the bark and deep enough to place the chemical in contact with the sap wood Apply the herbicide immediately after the dose pocket is made. Ensure that any trees treated with herbicide will not cause a hazard for people or public utilities when they finally fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)</td>
<td>1 L per 60 L diesel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basal bark or cut stump to less than 10 cm above the ground.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Fluroxypyr 200)</td>
<td>35 mL per 1 L diesel/ kerosene</td>
<td></td>
<td>Basal bark spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (e.g. Starane Advanced)</td>
<td>21 mL per 1 L diesel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Fluroxypyr 200)</td>
<td>500 mL 1 L/100 L water</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spot spray young trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (e.g. Starane Advanced)</td>
<td>300–600 mL/100 L water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.