

Rain tree

Samanea saman



Native to Central and South America, rain trees have been widely planted for shade in the tropics. They are able to spread into native forests, particularly along stream margins and in disturbed areas.

Legal requirements

Rain 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

Rain trees are large to massive, evergreen, spreading, umbrella-shaped and symmetrical trees that grow to 60 m tall with a crown up to 80 m broad. They have grey, very coarse and flaky bark.

Leaves are alternate, bipinnate, 25–40 cm long, with 2–8 pairs of primary leaflets each with 2–7 paired stalkless leaflets with a glandular dot between each pair.



Flowerheads are clustered near the ends of twigs, each cluster on a green hairy stalk 7–10 cm long, with many small tubular flowers with greenish petals and dark pink stamens. Black, woody seed pods are oblong, flat, 20–25 cm long × 2 cm wide, each with several oblong, reddish-brown seeds around 1 cm long.

Control

Manual control

Seedlings and young trees can be hand pulled. If larger plants are cut down or ringbarked, the stump must be treated with a suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth.

Herbicide control

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

To stem inject use a brace and bit, axe or stem injector to create dose pockets at 6–8 cm intervals around the base of the tree during its active growth period. The cut of the injection must be through the bark and deep enough to place the herbicide in contact with the sapwood.

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.

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 rain tree

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	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	Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water For other formulations consult APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/06/2023)	Stem inject
	Triclopyr 200 g/L + picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Slasher) or Triclopyr 200 g/L + picloram 100 g/L + aminopyralid 25 g/L (Tordon RegrowthMaster)	1 L per 4 L water	Stem inject
	Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L per 60 L diesel	Basal bark spray or cut stump to less than 10 cm above the ground
	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)	350–500 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil	Foliar spray

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.