

Umbrella tree

Schefflera actinophylla



The umbrella tree is native to northern Queensland, north of the tropic of Capricorn. In its natural ecosystem it has maintained a balance with other native species, however, when it is grown in southern Queensland, this fast growing invader out-competes local native species. It is a prolific seeder, invading national parks, remnant bushland, undisturbed forests and reserves, causing harm to the local ecosystems' flora and fauna.

It is commonly grown as an ornamental in backyards as it has a unique look and attracts birds. These birds can rapidly spread the seeds, particularly through native bushland. The roots of umbrella trees can pressurise building foundations and block plumbing joints and pipes.

These disadvantages can be overcome by growing non invasive species that may include Celery Wood, Leopard Ash, Native Tamarind, and Wheel of Fire.

Legal requirements

Umbrella 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

This fast-growing, evergreen tree growing up to 15 m growing easily in shady areas, as well as in sunlight. Umbrella tree is multi-trunked, smooth and grey in colour. Leaves are compound with stalks up to 40 cm long. Flowers are held on radiating spikes like an umbrella above the leaves up to 60 cm long. Petals are red, 7–8, but usually 12, 3–5 mm long. Stamens same number as petals. Fruit is dark red, ribbed up to 3–5 mm long with a single seed. Seeds are pale brown, oval like, 4 mm wide, 10 mm long.

Management strategies

Plants can be cut down or dug up depending on size and will reshoot unless treated with herbicide on the stump.

The best approach is to combine herbicide, mechanical and physical control methods.

The control methods you choose should suit the specific weed and your particular situation.

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 umbrella plant in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control umbrella plant as an environmental weed in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of umbrella tree

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	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 And other formulations (Many trade names)	Undiluted to 1 L per 12 L water For other formulations consult label or PER11463	APVMA permit PER11463 (Permit expires 30/06/2023)	Paint stump immediately after cutting or paint basal green bark
		Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut For other formulations consult label or PER11463		Drill, frill, axe or stem injection
	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg	2 g per 1 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut		
	Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L per 60 L diesel		Basal bark

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.

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.

