

Small-leaf privet

Ligustrum sinense



Small-leaf privet has been widely distributed in Australia as a garden hedge plant. Its berries are eaten by birds; aiding its dispersal. In natural systems, the densely branched growth habit of this weed poses a significant shading threat to native plants in moist, temperate areas of South East Queensland. Over time, this exclusion of native plants may be detrimental to native animals. Stands of this weed may also grow sufficiently thick to hinder animal movement through the bushland. Small-leaf privet produces masses of heavily-scented white flowers that cause severe allergic reactions in susceptible people.

Legal requirements

Small-leaf privet is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). This fact sheet gives examples of how you can meet your GBO.



At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in its 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

Small-leaf privet is a large shrub growing to about 4 m tall. The finely-haired leaves are deep green in colour, oval-shaped and up to 5 cm long. Young branches are often covered in fine hairs like those found on the leaves. Cream-coloured flowers are very small, but produced in dense sprays up to 10 cm long. Berries are produced after the flowers and are dark blue to black in colour.

Life cycle

Small-leaf privet flowers in spring and the fruit ripens in late autumn and winter. Small-leaf privet flowers earlier than broadleaf privet but its fruit can stay on the plant later. As many as 3000 fruits per small stem are set and can amount to over one million seeds per mature tree in open areas in a favourable year.

Methods of spread

Seed is the most common method of dispersal. Fruit-eating birds and rabbits spread seed, as well as dumping of garden waste, sale of garden plants, floral arrangements and in flowing water. Both species can also produce suckers from underground roots.

Habitat and distribution

The small leaf privet is native to China and Japan. They spread to a large range of habitats and dominate moist gullies and stream banks, as well as fence lines. Found along entire Queensland coastline. Prefers the moist, temperate areas of Southern Queensland, especially around Toowoomba. Also a serious weed in New South Wales and New Zealand.

Control

Managing small-leaf privet

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by small leaf privet. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling small-leaf privet.

Physical control

Small plants may be hand-pulled and moist soil will make this task easier. Be careful not to break the tap root or the plant will regrow.

Herbicide control

An off-label use permit allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland and forests.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

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

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.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of small-leaf privet

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Unwanted trees	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Ken-Up Aquatic 360, Touchdown 360 and other formulations)	1 L in 1 L water For other formulations consult label	Cut stump Apply to plants 0–30 cm in diameter
		Use undiluted For other formulations consult label	Stem injection 0–25 cm basal diameter 1 mL per 2 cm cut 25–60 cm basal diameter 2 mL per 2 cm cut
Home gardens	Triclopyr 50 g/L (e.g. Tree & Blackberry Killer, various brands)	100 mL + 100 mL kerosene	Basal bark plants to 10 cm diameter Cut stump for plants from 5 cm diameter Consult label
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forests, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 600 g/L (e.g. Triclopyr 600, various brands)	5 L/60 L diesel	Basal bark plants to 10cm diameter Cut stump plants up to and in excess of basal bark size. Treat at any time of year
Commercial and industrial situations, rights-of-way, pastures and forests	Triclopyr 750 g/L (e.g. Hurricane Ultimate 750)	800 mL/12 L diesel	Basal bark plants up to 10 cm diameter, cut stump for larger plants Treat at any time of year
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 (APVMA permit PER11463 expires 30/06/2018)	Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L product in 60 L diesel	Either paint stump immediately after cutting, or paint or spray basal bark
Native pastures, commercial and industrial areas and rights-of-way	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate, Ken-Met 600 WG)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	High volume foliar spray Apply to bushes up to 3 m high Complete spray coverage is essential DO NOT spray when plants are stressed
Non-agricultural areas (native pastures) commercial and industrial areas and right-of-ways	Aminopyralid 375 g/L + metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/L (Stinger)	20 g/100 L water	High volume foliar spray. Apply to bushes up to 3 m high. Complete coverage is essential, partial coverage will result in regrowth
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Triclopyr 75 g/L + metsulfuron-methyl 28 g/L (e.g. Zelan Brush Weed)	250 mL/100 L water	High volume foliar spray. Thorough coverage is essential for good control; partial coverage will result in regrowth. Do not spray when bushes are stressed

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 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.

