

Firethorn

Pyracantha spp.



A native of Asia, firethorn is part of the Malaceae family (often included in Rosaceae).

Firethorn can form dense thickets and produces many, bird-dispersed, moderately long-lived seeds.

Firethorn is commonly planted as ornamentals. There are at least five naturalised *Pyracantha* species in Australia. The most widespread is orange firethorn (*Pyracantha angustifolia*).

Declaration details

Firethorn is not a declared pest plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*; however, it may be declared under local government laws and be listed in a local government area pest management plan.

Description and general information

Firethorn is an evergreen shrub up to 6 m high with lanceolate to ovate leaves. White clusters of flowers appear in spring and summer.

A distinguishing feature are spines on the branches. Flowers have five white petals and numerous stamens. Fruit is red, orange or yellow.

Seeds can be spread by birds or occasionally by water.

Habitat and distribution

Infestations of firethorn occur in southern Queensland on the Granite Belt between Warwick and the border, around the Goomburra Valley near Allora, south of Inglewood on the Dumaresq River and around the fringes of Toowoomba city.

Other locally commonly cultivated species are Nepal firethorn (*Pyracantha crenulata*, *P. rogersiana* and *P. fortuneana*). The other naturalised species is *P. koidzumii*. Firethorns are mostly naturalised around habitation, particularly in urban woodlands and forests.

Control

There is no herbicide registered for the control of firethorn in Queensland; however, off-label use permit (PER11463) allows for the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas. Refer to Table 1 for control options.

Prior to using the chemicals 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 contact your local council weed inspector or visit <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11463.PDF>.



Queensland Government

It is a requirement that all persons using products covered by off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in that permit. Permit number PER11463 expires on 30 June 2014. While the permit may be extended beyond this date, there is no guarantee that it will, so contact your local council weed inspector for the latest information after this expiry date.

Before using any herbicide, read the label carefully and always use the herbicide strictly in accordance with label and permit directions.

Landholders are required to control declared pests on the land and waters under their control. A local government may serve a notice upon a landholder requiring control of declared pests.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

Table 1. Herbicides approved for control of firethorn

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, coastal and adjacent areas	Glyphosate 360 g/L (Round-up®)	1 L/2 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30 June 2014	Drill, frill, axe or stem injection These application methods require that the chemical reaches the sapwood within 10–15 seconds of the cut or drill hole being made Read permit carefully prior to use
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (Round-up®)	Undiluted to 1 L per 12 L water		Cut stump. Paint stump immediately after cutting
	Fluxroxypr 200 g/L e.g. Starane* 200	35 mL per 1 L diesel or kerosene		Basal bark spray
	Triclopyr 240 g/L + picloram 120 g/L e.g. Access*	1 L per 60 L diesel		Basal bark spray or cut stump. Paint stump immediately after cutting
	Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L e.g. Grazon* DS	350 mL to 500 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil. Or label rate for specific weed		Spot spraying where residual weed control is required
	Triclopyr 600 g/L e.g. Garlon* 600	17 mL per 1 L diesel or label rate for specific weed		Basal bark spray
	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg e.g. Brush Off®, Ally® etc.	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent. Or 100 g/ha plus wetting agent. Or label rate for specific weed		Spot spray
	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg	2 g per 1 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut		Drill, frill, axe or stem injection

Read the herbicide label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with label.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) 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, DEEDI does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.