

Invasive plants and animals

Japanese honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica



The problem

Japanese honeysuckle is an extremely vigorous, twining vine. Introduced from eastern Asia and Japan as an ornamental species, its invasive tendencies lead to widespread infestation of forest edges and disturbed sites. It grows as a thick ground cover or a dense shroud over supporting structure, including other plants. The fruits produced are attractive to many birds, aiding its dispersal. This weed is an invasive problem in many overseas countries, but is less so in arid climates. In Australia, naturalised populations occur in eastern New South Wales, south-east Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria.

Description

This trailing, woody vine grows to about 2.5 m tall. The leaves grow in opposite pairs and are up to 75 mm long and 35 mm wide. The tubular flowers are 35 mm long and appear in pairs. These flowers are cream to orange in colour and are extremely fragrant, attracting a host of insects. The fruits are small, blue-black berries.

Management strategies

This weed can be manually controlled by hand pulling or cutting it back. Take care to completely remove the roots (particularly larger roots) or the plant will regenerate vigorously.

Declaration details

Japanese honeysuckle is not a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Foliar application	glyphosate (360 g/L)	10 mL per 1 L	PERMIT 7485	Apply up to twice a year. Apply only when supporting plant and understorey are dead. Apply early autumn (March-April). Do not spray beyond the point of run-off.
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	10 mL in 20 mL water	PERMIT 7485	Apply in spring to summer. Apply second application if necessary.
Cut stump	picloram (43 g/kg) e.g. Vigilant®	Apply 3–5 mm thick over the cut surface (<20 mm in diameter) Apply 5 mm thick over the cut surface (>20 mm in diameter) In multi-stem plant treat at least 80% of stems.	Registered	

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.

Fact sheets are available from DPI&F service centres and the DPI&F Information Centre phone (13 25 23). Check our web site <www.dpi.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact 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 utilisation 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, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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