

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.

Declaration details

Rain tree is a not 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.

Description and general information

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 is no herbicide currently registered for control of rain trees in Queensland; however, an off-label use permit (Permit No. PER11463) allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.



Queensland Government

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 chemical in contact with the sapwood.

Apply the chemical 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.

It is important to note that specific research on the use of herbicides to control rain tree has not been undertaken to date. Therefore, the treatment options outlined above are suggestions only, based on registered controls for similar weeds in non-agricultural areas and the specifications of PER11463. As such, their effectiveness cannot be guaranteed.

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 www.apvma.gov.au

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the 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 the expiry date.

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 (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.deedi.qld.gov.au).

Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of rain tree

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Stem inject	Glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Stem inject	Triclopyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	1 L per 4 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Basal bark spray or cut stump to less than 10 cm above the ground	Triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Spot spray	Triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	350 to 500 ml per 100 L water plus wetting agent or spray oil	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use

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

Source: PER11463

Fact sheets are available from Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) service centres and our Business Information Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.deedi.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.