

Red Christmas pride

Ruellia graecizans



Native to South America, red Christmas pride was introduced to Far North Queensland as an ornamental. It is shade-loving and invades disturbed areas of rainforest and creek banks.

Declaration details

Red Christmas pride 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

Red Christmas pride is a wiry sub-shrub that grows to 60 cm with a dense, bushy, spreading habit.

Its leaves are opposite, grow to 12 cm long, becoming smaller towards the top of the plant and are glossy green, narrowly oval and hairless.

Bright red, swollen, tubular flowers that are streaked yellow inside appear in small clusters on long stalks in the leaf axils. Petals are up to 3 cm long.

Control

Manual control

Hand pull seedlings and small plants, ensuring that all stem fragments and roots are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent resprouting.

Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of red Christmas pride 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

It is important to note that specific research on the use of herbicides to control red Christmas pride has not been undertaken to date. Therefore, the treatment options outlined in Table 1 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 red Christmas pride

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spray	Glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 L per 100 L water	APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014	Read permit carefully prior to use
Spot spray	Fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	500 ml to 1 L per 100 L water	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 ml 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.