

Sweet prayer plant

Thaumatococcus daniellii



A native to forest clearings in Ghana, sweet prayer plant was originally imported for the production of a natural sweetener—the flesh of the fruit is 2000 times sweeter than sugar.

Now it is a weed of tropical rainforest margins, disturbed rainforest and creek lines near gardens. It reproduces from seeds and suckers.

Declaration details

Sweet prayer plant 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

Sweet prayer plant is a perennial shrub that grows up to 2 m high.

Its characteristic large, dark-green, oval leaves grow to 45 cm in length. Pale purple flowers are produced on short (15 cm) basal spikes, followed by reddish fruits.

Control

Manual control

Hand pull small plants. Make sure the whole root system is removed and either take it from the site or hang it out of contact with the soil.



Herbicide control

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of sweet prayer plant 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.

It is important to note that specific research on the use of herbicides to control sweet prayer plant 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

Regularly check treated areas for 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 sweet prayer plant

| Method | Herbicide | Rate | Registration status | Comments |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Spot spray | Metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/kg) | 10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent | APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014 | Read permit carefully prior to use |
| Spot spray | 2,4-D (300 g/L) + picloram (75 g/L) | 1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent | APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014 | Read permit carefully prior to use |
| 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 | Imazapyr (250 g/L) | 200 ml per 100 L water plus wetting agent | 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.