

Wild tobacco

Solanum mauritianum



Originating in Argentina, wild tobacco is a weed of almost any open situation. It is tolerant of various soils and moderate shade, and often forms dense stands suppressing growth of other species.

Wild tobacco is a coloniser of disturbed sites, and germination of soil-stored seed is stimulated by fire. In north Queensland, the species can act as a pioneer cover tree in rainforest successions, particularly on fertile soils. All parts of the plant are poisonous to humans, especially the green berries. However, the ripe fruit is sometimes a food source for birds.

Declaration details

Wild tobacco 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

Wild tobacco is a large spreading shrub or small tree with branched stems. It grows to 3–4 m and all parts of the bush are covered with pale, 'felty' hairs.

Leaves are lance-shaped, up to 30 cm long and 10 cm wide, yellowish-green above, paler beneath and densely covered with 'felty' hairs. They are tapered at both ends, with short, thick stalks and two stipules at the leaf base.

Flowers are lavender-blue, in compact clusters at the ends of the branches, on stalks densely covered with 'felty' hairs. Clustered fruits are hairy, yellow balls to 12 mm long when ripe, containing many small seeds (150–200 seeds per fruit).



Queensland Government

Control

Manual control

Ring bark tall plants as close to the ground as possible.
Pull out seedlings in the wet season when the soil is soft.

Be aware that some people react to the fine hairs that become airborne when working with this weed. Cover your arms and mouth.

Herbicide control

There are a number of chemicals and application methods registered for use on wild tobacco in Queensland in agricultural and non-agricultural situations.

See Table 1 for control treatments allowed on the permit.

Follow up

Check treated areas regularly for new seedlings and 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 wild tobacco

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Foliar spray	Triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	350 ml per 100 L water	Registered	Spray plants up to 2 m tall during spring to autumn
Foliar spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	300 ml per 15 L water	Registered	Pasture legumes including lucerne, clover and medics may be damaged unless well protected by grasses
Cut stump	2,4-D as (500 g/L or 625 g/L or 720 g/L)	0.2–0.3 L/15 L water	Registered	Please refer to the product label
Cut stump; basal bark	2,4-D (300 g/L)	1 L/40 L kerosine	Registered	Please refer to the product label
High volume (HV) spray Low volume (LV) spray	Picloram (100 g/L) + triclopyr (300 g/L)	(HV) 350 ml/100 L water (LV) 500 L/10 L water	Registered	Please refer to the product label
Cut stump	Picloram (43 g/kg)	Apply 5 mm layer over lower cut surface	Registered	Please refer to the product label
Cut stump; basal bark	Triclopyr as butotyl (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L/60 L diesel	Registered	Please refer to the product label

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

Source: Infopest 2009 + DEEDI fact sheet

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.