

African tulip tree

Spathodea campanulata



The African tulip tree is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street tree in tropical and subtropical parts of Queensland due to its showy, red tulip-shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in North Queensland, where they are highly invasive and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation.

African tulip trees are becoming problematic in South East Queensland as environmental weeds (garden escapees), and as a public safety hazard (when these trees are planted along footpaths, their dropped flowers can create a slippery walking surface). The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural vegetation or waterways.

Declaration details

African tulip tree is a Class 3 declared pest plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. Landholders are not required to control a Class 3 declared pest plant on their land unless a pest control notice is issued by a local government because the pest is causing or has potential to cause an negative impact on an adjacent environmentally significant area.

It is an offence to supply a Class 3 pest. A permit for specific purposes may be issued by Biosecurity Queensland.

Description and general information

African tulip tree is a fast growing evergreen tree that can grow up to 24 m in height. It has broadly oval-shaped leaves that are strongly veined, bronze when young and a deep, glossy green when mature. African tulip trees produce large flat clusters of velvety, bronze-green buds and large orange-red flowers with yellow frilly edges. Reddish-brown seed capsules are produced and can be up to 20 cm in length.

Control

Physical

Young African tulip trees can be dug out or hand-pulled when the soil is moist. Stumps of felled trees need to be treated with herbicide due to their ability to sucker.

Herbicide

The herbicides listed in the following table are permitted for use in the listed situations. Before using any herbicide always read the label carefully. All herbicides must be applied strictly in accordance with the directions on the label and the conditions in the APVMA permit.

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.biosecurity.qld.gov.au).



Table 1 Herbicides permitted under APVMA PER11463 for the control of African tulip tree

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, coastal and adjacent areas (Permit PER11463)	triclorpyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	1 L per 4 L water	Drill, frill, axe or stem inject.
	triclorpyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	50 mL per 1 L water	Cut stumps to less than 10 cm above the ground and immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• paint stump after cutting.• spot spray cut stump. Follow-up treatment needed on suckers.
	triclorpyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	Either paint stump immediately after cutting or paint or spray basal bark.
	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut	Drill, frill, axe or stem inject.

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label. Persons who wish to prepare for use and/or use products for the purposes specified in APVMA permit PER11463 must read, or have read to them, the details and conditions of the permit. APVMA permit PER11463 expires on 30 June 2014 and is available from the APVMA website at www.apvma.gov.au

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Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at www.biosecurity.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, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

