

Japanese honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica



Japanese honeysuckle is an extremely vigorous, twining vine. Introduced from eastern Asia and Japan as an ornamental species, its invasive tendencies lead to widespread infestation of forest edges and disturbed sites. It grows as a thick ground cover or a dense shroud over supporting structures, including other plants. The fruits produced are attractive to many birds, aiding its dispersal.

Japanese honeysuckle is an invasive problem in many overseas countries but is less so in arid climates. In Australia, naturalised populations occur in eastern New South Wales, south-east Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria.

Legal requirements

Japanese honeysuckle is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on Japanese honeysuckle. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



Queensland
Government

Description

This trailing, woody vine grows up to 2.5 m high. The leaves grow in opposite pairs and are up to 75 mm long and 35 mm wide. The tubular flowers are 35 mm long and appear in pairs. These flowers are cream to orange in colour and are extremely fragrant, attracting a host of insects. The fruits are small, blue-black berries.

Management strategies

Japanese honeysuckle can be manually controlled by hand pulling or cutting it back. Take care to completely remove the roots (particularly larger roots) or the plant will regenerate vigorously.

Herbicide control

Vigilant II herbicide is registered for control of Japanese honeysuckle in Queensland. Additionally, APVMA permit PER11463 allows people generally to use other herbicide products to control Japanese honeysuckle as an invasive plant in various situations.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of Japanese honeysuckle

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas.	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup, Weedmaster Duo) And other formulations	10 mL per 1 L water For other formulations consult the permit	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Foliar application Apply up to twice a year only when supporting plant and understory are dead Apply early autumn (March-April) Do not spray beyond the point of run-off Consult APVMA permit PER11463 and label for critical comments
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup, Weedmaster Duo) and other formulations	10 mL in 20 mL water For other formulations consult the permit		Cut stump Apply in spring to summer Apply second application if necessary Consult APVMA permit PER11463 and label for critical comments
Non-crop areas, including: Native vegetation, conservation areas, gullies, reserves and parks	Picloram 44.7 g/L +aminopyralid 4.47 g/L (Vigilant II)	Apply 3–5 mm thick over the cut surface (<20 mm in diameter) Apply 5 mm thick over the cut surface (>20 mm in diameter)		Cut stump In multi-stem plant treat at least 80% of stems Consult label for critical comments

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

See Table 1 for the treatment options available.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under permit PER11463 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit apvma.gov.au.

More information

More information is available from your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

