

# Broad-leaf privet

*Ligustrum lucidum*



Broad-leaf privet is a naturalised weed in South East Queensland; a potential invader of riparian vegetation and disturbed sites. In some coastal areas it displaces rainforest species. Broad-leaf privet is densely branched and can form thickets; destroying native animal habitat and disrupting their access through natural corridors. It is also recognised as a weed in South Africa and is known to cause significant irritations to sufferers of hay fever.

## Legal requirements

Broad-leaf privet is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO). This fact sheet gives examples of how you can meet your GBO.



**Queensland**  
Government

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on broad-leaf privet. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

## Description

Broad-leaf privet is an evergreen shrub up to 10 m tall. Branches are closely packed. Leaves are dark green, broad, leathery, 4–13 cm long, 3–6 cm wide, with pointed tips, growing in opposite pairs. Flowers are tubular, cream or white, 3.5–6 mm long, with sickly sweet fragrance. Berries are black, 9 mm long, 12 mm in diameter, occur in dense bunches. Each berry can contain two seeds. The seeds have a ribbed surface and are about 5 mm long.

## Life cycle

Flowers in summer to produce clusters of black berries. The fruit is present during autumn and winter and with each berry containing two seeds, a tree can produce up to 10 million seeds annually. The seeds stay viable in the soil up to two years before germinating. A tree can live up to 100 years.

## Methods of spread

Mostly spread by fruit eating birds. People have commonly cultivated it as a wind break or hedge. Fruit can float and be spread by water.

## Habitat and distribution

Originally from Japan and China, tree privet is regularly seen in ornamental gardens throughout South East Queensland.

Broad-leaf privet prefers warm humid environments and is often found along creeks, gullies and drainage lines. Also a weed of open woodlands, grasslands, pastures, waste areas, disturbed sites, and roadsides.

## Control

### Managing broad-leaf privet

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by broad-leaf privet. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling broad-leaf privet.

### Physical control

Broad-leaf privet seedlings may be controlled by mowing or hand-pulling. If removing by hand, take care not to break the taproot or regrowth is likely to occur.

Take care to ensure your own and others safety when trimming or lopping broad-leaf privet near power lines.

For electrical safety information visit [worksafe.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety](http://worksafe.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety).

### Herbicide control

Before using any herbicide always read the label carefully. All herbicides must be applied strictly in accordance with the directions on the label.

### More information

More information is available from your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).



**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of broad-leaf privet**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, fence lines, forestry, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	2 L product in 60 L diesel	Cut stump: plants with a basal diameter up to and in excess of 5 cm. Apply within 15 seconds after the cut is made.  Basal bark spray: plants with a basal diameter up to 5 cm.
	Triclopyr 600 g/L (e.g. Garlon 600)	1 L product in 12 L diesel	Cut stump: plants with a basal diameter up to and in excess of 10 cm. Treat at any time of year.  Basal bark spray: only for plants with stem diameter less than 10 cm. Treat at any time of year.
Non-crop areas including native vegetation, conservation areas, gullies, reserves and parks	Picloram 43 g/kg + Aminopyralid 4.47 g/L (e.g. Vigilant II®)	Apply a layer of product 3–5 mm thick over cut surface	Cut stems no higher than 10 cm above ground level. Stems greater than 20 mm wide, apply 5 mm thick. In multi-stem plants treat at least 80% of stems including all main stems.
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup)	Use undiluted, apply 1–2 mL per 2 cm cut	Stem injection: up to 25 cm basal 1 mL per cut, 25–60 cm basal 1 mL per cut.
		1 L product to 1 L water, 1:1 in water	Cut stump: 0–30 cm diameter cut close to ground and wet stump surface within 15 seconds.
Native pastures, commercial and industrial areas and rights-of-way	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	Foliar spray: apply to bushes up to 3 m high. Complete spray coverage is essential. DO NOT spray when plants are stressed.
Non agricultural areas (native pastures), commercial and industrial areas and rights-of-way	Aminopyralid 375 g/kg + Metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg (e.g. Stinger)	20 g/100L water	Foliar spray: apply to plants up to 3 m high. Complete foliar spray coverage is essential for control. Partial spray coverage will result in regrowth recovery.
Non agricultural areas (native pastures), commercial and industrial areas and rights-of-way	Aminopyralid 375 g/kg + Metsulfuron-methyl 300 g/kg (e.g. Stinger)	20 g/10 L water plus Pulse Penetrant (20 mL/10 L)	Low volume high concentration application techniques (gas gun). Apply to plants up to 3 m high. Partial spray cover will result in regrowth recovery.
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Triclopyr 75 g/L + Metsulfuron-methyl 28 g/L (e.g. Zelum Brush Weed)	250 mL/100 L water	Actively growing plants up to 3 m high. Thorough coverage is essential for good control; partial coverage will result in regrowth. Do not spray when bushes are stressed.

**Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.**



Fact sheets are available from [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au). The control methods recommended 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, the department does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

