

Baby pepper

Rivina humilis



Baby pepper or coral berry is found at a number of localities on the east coast, primarily along the edges of rainforest and in vine scrub, where it displays a preference for shaded areas.

Following disturbance of the natural vegetation, this species interferes with the re-establishment of native rainforest plants. Birds are the main dispersal method as they eat the fruit and spread the seeds. This invasive plant germinates readily from seed.

Legal requirements

Baby pepper 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 baby pepper. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland
Government**

Description

Baby pepper is an erect, short-lived herb that grows up to about 1 m high. Stems are quite woody at the base. The plant is supported by a tap root and a lateral root system. Flowers occur in the upper leaf stalks of mature plants and are grouped in narrow spike-like formations. These flowers vary in colour from white to pink with a greenish tinge.

Leaves are up to 10 cm long, lance-shaped and bright green in colour. The leaves grow on alternate sides along the stem and taper to a pointed tip. When damaged or crushed, the leaves emit an unpleasant odour. Fruits occur in the form of round, bright red berries that may occur at any time throughout the year. Each berry contains a single seed.

Control

Physical control

Individual plants should be hand-pulled and placed in a large garbage bag. Take care to remove seed heads and fruits to minimise new growth. Bags of plant material may be left in the sun for a period of weeks to allow the

green matter to rot. Bags should then be buried at an appropriate council landfill site. Control should ideally be performed before the plants have the chance to form berries or flowers.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of baby pepper in Queensland. However, a permit allows people to generally use some herbicide products to control baby pepper as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this 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

For more information contact your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of baby pepper or coral berry

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, dunal and coastal areas	Fluroxypyr 200 g/L (e.g. Flagship 200)	500 mL per 100 L water or 5–10 L/ha	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Spot spray
	Fluroxypyr 140 g/L + Aminopyralid 10 g/L (e.g. Hotshot)	500 mL per 100L water		

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

