

African olive

Olea europaea subsp. *cuspidata*



A native to Africa, African olive is an evergreen tree that can invade bushland and harbour pests and diseases of commercial olives. It can also impact native understory plants and change plant diversity in bushland.

African olive is similar to the common olive (*Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea*) which has leaves with silvery-grey undersides, instead of yellow-brown.

Legal requirements

African olive 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 African olive 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 African olive. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland
Government**

Description

African olive is a multi-branched shrub or small tree that can grow up to 10 m high. Leaves are oval, glossy green on top with yellow-brown underneath, 6–10 cm long, 1–4 cm wide. Most leaves have a hooked tip.

Flowers are creamy-white with four petals, 2–4 mm diameter that are joined into a very short tube at the base.

Fruit are oval-shaped, green when immature and turn purplish-black as they mature, 15–30 mm long and 6–20 mm wide. Fruit contain a single hard seed, 10–15 mm long surrounded by oily flesh. Fruit is not edible.

Life cycle

Flowering generally occurs mostly during spring and early summer. It reproduces mainly by seed, however it also produces suckers after plants are damaged.

Methods of spread

African olive is dispersed to new areas by birds and other animals (e.g. foxes) when they eat the fruit and spread the seeds.

Habitat and distribution

African olive prefers warmer temperate and semi-arid regions and can grow in shade. It can become naturalised in bushland, parks, grasslands, disturbed sites and along roadsides.

It has been found in the Toowoomba area. It is regarded as a significant invasive plant in New South Wales and Norfolk Island.

Control

Manual control

Plants can be cut down or dug up depending on size and will reshoot unless treated with herbicide. Ensure to remove all the roots. Optimum time to control is before they fruit. The best approach is to combine herbicide and physical control methods.

The control methods you choose should suit the specific plant and your particular situation.

Herbicide control

Di-Bak AM herbicide (Aminopyralid 93.7 g/kg + metsulfuron-methyl 75 g/kg) and Method 240 SL herbicide (Aminocyclopyrachlor 240 g/L), are registered for the control of African olive. A permit also allows people to use herbicide products to control African olive as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options.

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.

Follow up

Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth. These should be re-sprayed.

More information

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

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of African olive

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
Native conservation areas, pastoral grazing land, industrial sites such as railways, roadways and utility rights-of-way	Aminocyclopyrachlor 240 g/L (Method 240 SL Herbicide)	5–10 L per 100 L water and 10% methylated seed oil or basal oil adjuvant		Basal bark Consult label
		200 mL to 500 mL/100 L water		Spot spray
		0.5 mL (undiluted) per cut		Stem injection
Forestry, pasture, commercial and industrial areas, rights-of-way, around agricultural buildings and public service areas	Aminopyralid 93.7 g/kg + metsulfuron-methyl 75 g/kg (e.g. Di-Bak AM Herbicide)	1 capsule every 10 cm of circumference		
Non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/ native forests, roadsides, rights-of-way, vacant lots, wastelands and wetlands	Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	250 mL per 15 L in diesel or other suitable carrier as per product label general instructions	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	Basal bark spray or cut stump application. Paint stump immediately after cutting or paint or spray basal bark
	Triclopyr 600 g/L (e.g. Garlon 600)	17 mL per 1 L diesel, kerosene or Biosafe Biodegradable Herbicide Carrier		
	Glyphosate 360g/L (e.g. RoundUp)	1 L per 100 L water		

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



Leaves with hooked tip



African olive flowers



Close up of stems and underside of leaves



Fruit



Leaves topside

Fact sheets are available from 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.

