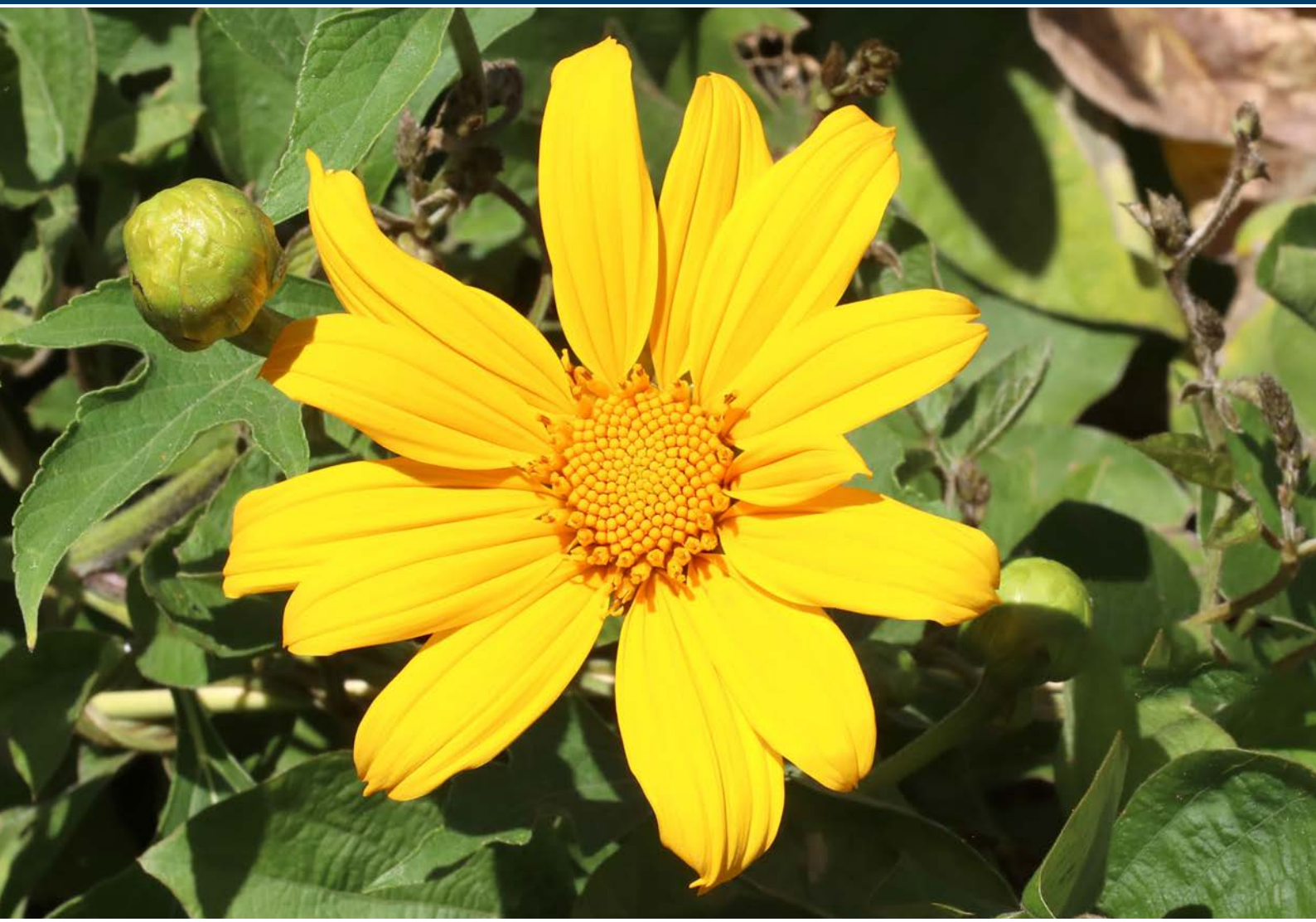
Japanese sunflower

Tithonia diversifolia



Japanese sunflower is native to Central America. It forms dense thickets and out-competes native vegetation.

Japanese sunflower is commonly an invasive plant on roadsides and embankments in coastal Queensland. It is widespread and common in far north Queensland, particularly on roadsides, embankments, unmanaged lands and fire degraded hillsides.

A similar species *Tithonia rotundifolia* is known as Mexican sunflower. This plant is smaller in height and flower size, and its distribution is similar to Japanese sunflower.

Legal requirements

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

Queensland Government

Description

Japanese sunflower stands that grow up to 3 m high. Flowers are sunflower-like and up to 10 cm wide, with yellow centres and reddish-orange petals 4–5 cm long. The stems are bushy, with five-lobed, serrated, hairy leaves, pale green in colour and between 6–15 cm long and 5–12 cm wide. Leaf blades are tapered, 6–33 cm long and 5–22 cm wide.

Mexican sunflower leaves have five broad, round-toothed lobes and yellow flower centres with reddish-orange petals.

Management strategies

Japanese sunflowers can be dug out or chipped where infestations are small.

Herbicide control

There are several herbicides currently registered for the control of Japanese sunflower in Queensland. APVMA permit PER11463 also allows use of other herbicide products to control Japanese sunflower as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for available treatment options.

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.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of Japanese sunflower

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Comments
Agricultural non-crop areas, commercial and industrial areas, forests, pastures and rights-of-way	Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Conqueror) or Triclopyr 300 g/L + picloram 100 g/L + aminolpyralid 8 g/L (Grazon Extra)	350 mL per 100 L water	Apply as a thorough foliar spray pre-flowering plants
Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Metsol 600, Metmac 600)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	Spray to thoroughly wet all foliage, but not to cause run-off
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	2,4-D amine 300 g/L (e.g. Conquest Amine 300 Selective Herbicide)	633 mL per 100 L water	Spot spray APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)
	2,4-D amine 625 g/L (e.g. Nufarm 2,4-D Amine 625 Herbicide)	300 mL per 100 L water	

Note: Refer to the permit for more herbicide options. Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

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