



# African tulip

*Spathodea campanulata*

**DECLARED CLASS 3**



## The problem

The African tulip tree is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street tree in tropical and subtropical parts of Queensland, due to its showy red tulip shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in north Queensland, where they are highly invasive, and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation.

African tulip trees are becoming problematic in south-east Queensland as environmental weeds (garden escapes), and as a public safety hazard (when these trees are planted along footpaths, their dropped flowers can create a slippery walking surface). The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers, and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural vegetation or waterways.

## Description

African tulip tree is a fast growing evergreen tree that can grow up to 24 m in height. It has broadly oval shaped leaves which are strongly veined, bronze when young, and a deep glossy green when mature. African tulip trees produce large flat clusters of velvety, bronze-green buds and large orange-red flowers with yellow frilly edges. Reddish-brown seed capsules are produced and can be up to 20 cm in length.

## Management strategies

Young African tulip trees can be dug out or hand pulled when the soil is moist. Due to their ability to sucker, stumps of felled trees need to be treated with herbicide.

## Declaration details

African tulip is a declared Class 3 plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. The Act prohibits the supply or sale of Class 3 plants and may require their removal from environmentally significant areas.

## Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

**TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF AFRICAN TULIP**

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Stem inject	triclopyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L) e.g. Tordon Double Strength (DS) Herbicide®	1 L per 4 L water	Registered	
Cut stump	triclopyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L) e.g. Tordon Double Strength (DS) Herbicide®	50 mL per 1 L water	Registered	Cut stumps to less than 10 cm above the ground and immediately paint stump after cutting. Need follow-up treatment on suckers.
	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L) e.g. Access®	1 L per 60 L diesel	PERMIT 7485	
Stem inject	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut	PERMIT 7485	

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

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.

Fact sheets are available from NRW service centres and the NRW Information Centre phone (07 3237 1435). Check our web site <[www.nrw.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au)> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact 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 utilisation 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 of Natural Resources and Water does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

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