



Japanese sunflower

Tithonia diversifolia



The problem

Japanese sunflower is native to Central America. It is a serious environmental weed, forming dense thickets and out-competing native vegetation.

Japanese sunflower is commonly a weed on roadsides and embankments in coastal Queensland and northern coastal New South Wales. It is widespread and common in far north Queensland,

particularly on roadsides, embankments, unmanaged lands and fire degraded hillsides.

A similar species *T. rotundifolia* is known as Mexican sunflower. This weed is smaller in height and flower size, and its distribution as an environmental weed is similar to Japanese sunflower in Queensland but not as common in New South Wales.

Description

Japanese sunflower stands erect to 3 m, and has sunflower-like heads up to 10 cm across, with orange-yellow petals 4–5 cm long. The stems are bushy, with five-lobed, serrated hairy leaves, between 6–15 cm in length and 5–12 cm in width.

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.

Declaration details

Japanese sunflower is not a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

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 JAPANESE SUNFLOWER

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status
Foliar spray	triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L) e.g. Grazon DS Herbicide®	350 mL per 100 L water	Registered A DPI permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram.
Spot spray	metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/L)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	PERMIT 7485
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	4 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 7485
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (625 g/L)	3 mL per 1 L water	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.

