facts Natural Resources and Water
Managing Queensland's natural resources...for today and tomorrow

pest series

Stinking passion flower

Passiflora foetida

The problem

Stinking passion flower is a native of South America. Though less common in south-east Queensland than the other weedy passionfruit species (corky passion and white passion), stinking passion flower is an invasive environmental weed which can be found invading forest edges, coastal vegetation, roadsides and disturbed areas.

In northern Queensland, stinking passion flower is more widespread, and is commonly found invading disturbed areas along river and creek banks. If left unchecked, this environmental weed has the ability to increase its current distribution, spreading into other natural areas and becoming more invasive. Stinking passion flower is also considered a weed of crops and pastures. It contains cyanic acid and is suspected to be poisonous to people and livestock.

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Description

Stinking passion flower is a climbing vine, densely covered in soft, sometimes sticky hairs. Leaves can have 3–5 pointed lobes, and are between 3–10 cm long. The typical passionfruit-like flowers have cream petals, white, pink or purple centres, and are from 3–5 cm across. Unlike commercial passionfruits, the fruits on this species are dry orange berries, 1–3 cm across, and enclosed in prickly outer leaves (bracts). As its name suggests, the whole plant has an unpleasant smell.

Management strategies

Hand pulling vines when the soil is moist is the most reliable form of control.

Declaration details

Stinking passion flower 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 STINKING PASSION FLOWER

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 part product to 2 parts water	PERMIT 7485	
Basal bark spray	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	PERMIT 7485	
Spot spray	triclopyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	500 mL per 100 L water	PERMIT 7485	A DPI permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram.
Cut stump	triclopyr (200 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L)	50 mL per 1 L	PERMIT 7485	Cut stumps to less than 10cm above the ground.

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.

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