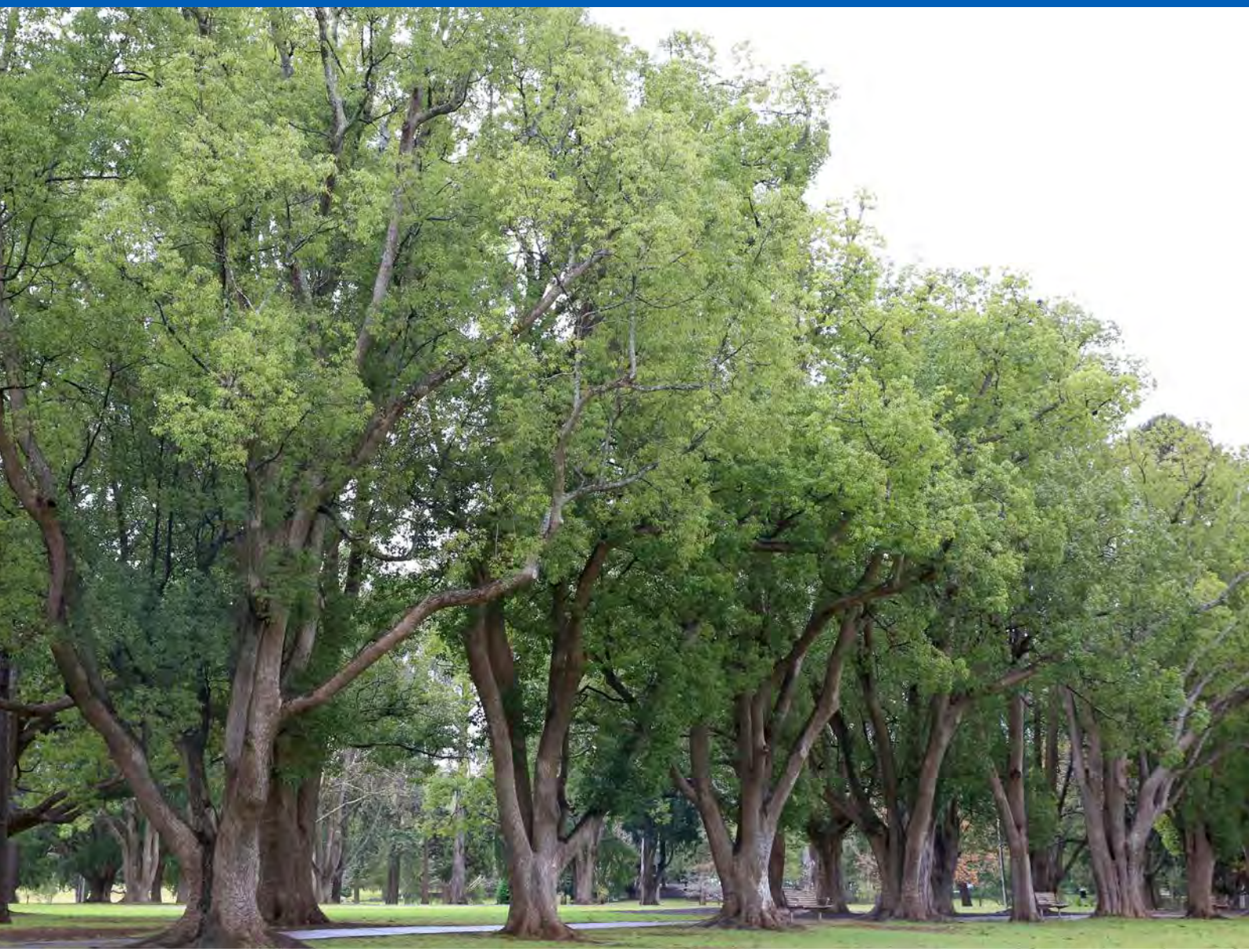
Restricted category 3

Camphor laurel

Cinnamomum camphora



Camphor laurel was introduced into Australia from Asia in 1822. It has been planted as a garden ornamental throughout Queensland.

Camphor laurel is an attractive shade tree, but can be very destructive as it aggressively replaces native vegetation. The long-term consequences of its spread may result in the loss of native wildlife and agricultural productivity over large areas of South East Queensland.

Camphor laurel invades pastures and disturbed riparian systems. It tends to germinate under fences and power lines (wherever birds rest and deposit the seed). As a result, it can push fences over and disrupt power facilities.

Camphor laurel can replace the native blue gums, thereby threatening koala populations.

Older camphor laurel trees develop a massive root system that can block drains and crack concrete structures. The average suburban backyard is far too small to accommodate a mature camphor laurel without problems. Removal of a mature tree can cost hundreds of dollars.

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Legal requirements

Camphor laurel is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).

At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on camphor laurel. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Camphor laurel is a large evergreen tree, growing up to 20 m high. The leaves have a glossy, waxy appearance and smell of camphor when crushed. In spring it produces lush, bright-green foliage and masses of small white flowers. The spherical fruits are green (changing to black when ripe) and 10 mm in diameter.

Life cycle

Camphor laurel flowers in spring and produces over 100,000 seeds a year. The seeds can stay viable up to three years and germination occurs from 4–20 weeks.

Methods of spread

Spread by people as an ornamental tree. Berries spread by water and birds.

Habitat and distribution

Camphor laurel is native to Taiwan, Japan and some parts of China. Since it was introduced, it has been planted all along eastern Australia from the Atherton Tablelands to Victoria. It is particularly common along watercourses and in soil types that once supported rainforest.

In south-east Queensland, it has the potential to develop dense infestations. A large camphor laurel tree may produce over 100 000 seeds every year. The seeds are readily spread by fruit eating birds.

Control

Managing camphor laurel

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks posed by camphor laurel.

This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling camphor laurel.

Mechanical control

Removal of newly established or isolated seedlings by hand pulling or grubbing is effective. Bulldozing is only suitable for young trees that can be removed, roots and all. Failure to remove roots of mature trees will result in regrowth. Fire kills plant tops but produces regrowth from the base. Take care to ensure your own and others safety when trimming or lopping camphor laurel near power lines. For electrical safety information visit worksafe.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety.

Herbicide control

Selection of a suitable control method depends on the size of the target tree and its situation. A standing tree that has been treated may be a serious hazard to human safety or other structures when it falls. Removal of the bulk of the tree before treating the stump is preferred in such situations. Before using any herbicide always read the label carefully. All herbicides must be applied strictly in accordance with the label.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in various situations. Prior to using the herbicides listed under permit PER12363 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit portal.apvma.gov.au/permits.

Foliar spray

Foliar sprays can be used for young trees up to 3 m high.

Basal bark

For trees up to 6 m, carefully spray around the base of each stem or trunk to a height of 40 cm above the ground. Ensure every part of the trunk is sprayed.

Cut stump

For small trees, cut each stem off as close to the ground as possible and **immediately** (within 15 seconds) apply the herbicide mixture liberally to the cut surface.

Stem injection

For trees taller than 6 m, stem injection using a modified axe is the most practical method—leave no more than 2 cm between cuts.

Axe cuts for stem injection of herbicides should be made at regular intervals all around the stem (or stems). Care should be taken to ensure the axe leaves a 'pocket' in the stem, into which the chemical is immediately injected. Cuts should penetrate the sapwood (just under the bark), but not the hard central wood. Cuts made too shallow into the bark or too deep into the stem will result in regrowth. The practice of drilling holes in the stem prior to herbicide application is not recommended.

More information

More information is available from your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of camphor laurel

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	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 + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (e.g. Woody Extra)	350–500 mL per 100 L water	Registered	High-volume spray for trees up to 2 m high; higher rate for trees over 2 m high.
		500 mL per 10 L water		High concentration/low volume application (gas gun or sprinkler sprayer). Trees less than 1.5 m high which are able to be sprayed from all sides. Use high volume application on larger bushes.
	Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 8 g/L (e.g. Grazon Extra)	350–500 mL per 100 L water		High concentration/low volume application (gas gun or splatter gun). Trees less than 1.5 m high.
		500 mL per 10 L water		High concentration/low volume application (gas gun or splatter gun). Trees less than 1.5 m high. Use high volume application on larger bushes.
	Triclopyr 600 g/L (e.g. Garlon 600)	170 mL per 100 L water		High-volume foliar spray for trees up to 3 m high.
	Triclopyr 600 g/L (e.g. Garlon 600)	1 L in 60 L diesel		Basal bark trees to 10 cm diameter or cut stump trees to basal bark size or greater.
	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (e.g. Apparent Slogger Herbicide)	Mix 1 part herbicide with 4 parts water		Stem injection application (consult label).
	Triclopyr 200 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L + Aminopyralid 25 g/L (e.g. Tordon RegrowthMaster)	Mix 1 part herbicide with 4 parts water		Stem injection application (consult label).
Pasture, non-crop, forestry, right-of-way and aquatic	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup Biactive)	2 mL of 1:1 mix with water		Stem injection for trees up to 25 cm in diameter.
		2 mL undiluted		Stem injection for trees 25–60 cm in diameter.
Natural ecosystems (non-agricultural)	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo)	Mix 1 part herbicide with 50 parts water	APVMA permit PER12363 (expires 28/02/3030)	Aerial spot spray from helicopter or unmanned aircraft vehicles. For use only by officers/contractors of government agencies, QPWS or NRM groups.
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo) + Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate)	1:50 glyphosate + 1.5 g metsulfuron-methyl per 10 L water		

Various glyphosate formulations are available but not all are registered for this use. Consult labels for rates. For aquatic or riparian areas only use glyphosate formulations registered for use in those situations.

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