Restricted category 3

Dutchman's pipe

Aristolochia elegans

Dutchman's pipe is an environmental weed that is widely promoted as an unusual, easily cultivated ornamental plant. Dutchman's pipe is a popular novelty in gardens and suburban backyards and has naturalised in several areas of Queensland. It has a preference for moist, fertile soils making it a prime invader of rainforest habitat.

Dutchman's pipe is similar to the natives *Pararistolochia praevenosa* and *Aristolochia acuminata* which are natural food plants for a number of Australian butterflies.

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Dutchman's pipe however is a deadly alternative, tricking butterflies into laying their eggs on its leaves, and then poisoning the larvae when they hatch and begin to feed.

The survival of the rare Richmond birdwing butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) is threatened by this occurrence. Never plant this species in your garden. Consider using the native species in your garden instead.

Legal requirements

Dutchman's pipe 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 Dutchman's pipe. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description

Dutchman's pipe is a fast-growing vine. The common name arose from the distinctive flowers that are shaped like a traditional Dutchman's pipe. These flowers are strikingly coloured reddish-purple and marked with white and yellow.

Leaves are up to 75 mm long, glossy green and heart-shaped, growing closely to form a dense mat of foliage.

The woody stems are slender and twine tightly in coils around any supporting structure.

Life cycle

Flowering occurs mostly in the summer with seed set late summer.

Methods of spread

Mostly spread by humans, also by wind, water and gravity.

Habitat and distribution

Dutchman's pipe is native to South America (i.e. Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Argentina) and prefers rainforests, closed forests, urban bushland, disturbed sites, roadsides, waste areas, waterways and forest margins in tropical and sub-tropical regions. It is also a potential invasive plant of plantation crops.

It is common in the coastal districts of southern and central Queensland, scattered in the coastal areas of northern Queensland.

Also considered a problem in Australia as birdwing butterflies, Ornithoptera priamus and Ornithoptera richmondii, lay eggs on this plant in mistake for their native Aristolochia and Pararistolochia hosts. Eggs hatch but larvae are unable to develop on Dutchman's pipe.

Control

Managing Dutchman's pipe

The GBO requires a person to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks posed by Dutchman's pipe. This fact sheet provides information and some options for controlling Dutchman's pipe.

Physical control

Manual removal may be the only suitable method of control available for this invasive plant. Small plants can be pulled or dug out, ensuring that the crown and the roots are removed.

Vigorous growth may be cut down using a brush hook or other such tool, preferably before seeds set. Trace vines to their main crown and cut with a knife well below this growing point, removing all parts of the plant from the soil.

Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of Dutchman's pipe in Queensland. However, two permits allow use of some herbicide products to control Dutchman's pipe as an invasive plant in various situations. See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permits.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under these permits (PER11463 and PER12363) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of these permits visit apvma.gov.au.

More information

For more information contact your local government or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Table 1. Herbicides for the control of Dutchman's pipe

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details	Comments
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	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo)	1 part product to 2 parts water (e.g. 10 mL in 20 mL water)	APVMA permit PER11463 (expires 30/04/2027)	**Cut stump** Apply in spring. Apply second application if necessary.
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Weedmaster Duo)	10 mL per 1 L water		**Foliar application** Apply up to twice a year. Apply only when the supporting plant and under-storey is dead Apply early autumn (March-April). Do not spray beyond the point of run-off.
Natural ecosystems (non-agricultural)	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Associate, Ken-Met 600 WG)	10–20 g per 100 L water plus a wetting agent	APVMA permit PER12363 for use by officers/ contractors of government agencies, QPWS, or NRM groups	Aerial spot spray from helicopter or unmanned aircraft vehicles.
	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		

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