

# Umbrella tree

*Schefflera actinophylla*



The umbrella tree is native to northern Queensland, north of the tropic of Capricorn. In its natural ecosystem it has maintained a balance with other native species, however, when it is grown in southern Queensland, this fast growing invader out-competes local native species. It is a prolific seeder, invading national parks, remnant bushland, undisturbed forests and reserves, causing harm to the local ecosystems' flora and fauna.

It is commonly grown as an ornamental in backyards as it has a unique look and attracts birds. These birds can rapidly spread the seeds, particularly through native bushland. The roots of umbrella trees can pressurise building foundations and block plumbing joints and pipes.

These disadvantages can be overcome by growing non invasive species that may include Celery Wood, Leopard Ash, Native Tamarind, and Wheel of Fire.

## Legal requirements

Umbrella tree is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants under their control.

Local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants in their area. This plan may include actions to be taken on umbrella tree. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland**  
Government

## Description

Umbrella tree can growing up to 15 m high, easily growing in shady areas, as well as in sunlight. It is multi-trunked, smooth and grey in colour. Leaves are compound with stalks up to 40 cm long. Flowers are held on radiating spikes like an umbrella above the leaves up to 60 cm long. Petals are red, 7–8, but usually 12, 3–5 mm long. Stamens same number as petals. Fruit is dark red, ribbed up to 3–5 mm long with a single seed. Seeds are pale brown, oval like, 4 mm wide, 10 mm long.

## Management strategies

Plants can be cut down or dug up depending on size and will reshoot unless treated with herbicide on the stump.

The best approach is to combine herbicide, mechanical and physical control methods. The control methods you choose should suit the specific weed and your particular situation.

Take care to ensure your own and others safety when trimming or lopping bamboo near power lines. For electrical safety information visit [worksafe.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety](http://worksafe.qld.gov.au/electricalsafety).

## Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of umbrella plant in Queensland. However, a permit allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control umbrella plant as an invasive plant in various situations.

See Table 1 for the treatment options in situations allowed by the permit.

Prior to using the herbicides listed under this permit (PER11463) you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit visit [apvma.gov.au](http://apvma.gov.au).

Landholders and contractors should check if the property is in a hazardous area as defined in the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966* prior to spraying herbicides containing picloram.

## More information

More information is available from your local government or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).



**Table 1. Herbicides for the control of umbrella tree**

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 and other formulations (Many trade names)	Undiluted to 1 L per 12 L water For other formulations consult label or PER11463	APVMA permit PER11463 (permit expires 30/04/2027)	Paint stump immediately after cutting or paint basal green bark
		Undiluted to 1 L per 2 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut For other formulations consult label or PER11463		Drill, frill, axe or stem injection
	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Kenso AgCare Ken-Met 600 WG)	2 g per 1 L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut		
	Triclopyr 240 g/L + Picloram 120 g/L (e.g. Access)	1 L per 60 L diesel or other suitable carrier as per product label general instructions.		Basal bark

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

Fact sheets are available from [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au). The control methods recommended 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 use 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 does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

