

# Sweet prayer plant

*Thaumatococcus daniellii*



A native to Ghana, sweet prayer plant was originally imported for the production of a natural sweetener—the flesh of the fruit is 2000 times sweeter than sugar.

It is an invasive plant of tropical rainforest margins, disturbed rainforest and creek lines near gardens. It reproduces from seeds and suckers.

## Legal requirements

Sweet prayer plant 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 sweet prayer plant. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.



**Queensland  
Government**

## Description

Sweet prayer plant is a perennial shrub that grows up to 2 m high. Its characteristic large, dark-green, oval leaves grow to 45 cm in length. Pale purple flowers are produced on short (15 cm) basal spikes, followed by reddish fruits.

## Control

### Manual control

Hand pull small plants. Make sure the whole root system is removed and either take it from the site or hang it out of contact with the soil.

### Herbicide control

There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of sweet prayer plant in Queensland. However, a permit allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control sweet prayer 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 sweet prayer plant**

Situation	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	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	Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (e.g. Kenso AgCare Ken-Met 600 WG)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	APVMA permit PER11463 (permit expires 30/04/2027)	Spot spray
	2,4-D 300 g/L + Picloram 75 g/L (e.g. Tordon 75-D)	1 L per 100 L water plus wetting agent		
	Glyphosate 360 g/L (e.g. Roundup Biactive) And other formulations	1 L per 100 L water For other formulations consult label or PER11463		
	Imazapyr 250 g/L (e.g. Arsenal)	400 mL per 100 L water plus wetting agent		

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

