

# 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.

## Declaration details

Umbrella tree is not a declared pest plant under Queensland legislation. A local government may declare umbrella tree under it's own local law.

## Description and general information

This fast-growing, evergreen tree growing up to 15 m growing easily in shady areas, as well as in sunlight. Umbrella tree 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.

## Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)).

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

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details
Paint stump immediately after cutting or paint basal green bark.	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1 L per 12 L water	PERMIT 11463
Drill, frill, axe or stem injection	glyphosate (360 g/L)	Undiluted to 1L per 2L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut	
Drill, frill, axe or stem inject	metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/kg)	2 g per 1 L water at 1 ml per 2 cm of hole or cut	
Basal bark	triclopyr (240 g/L) + picloram (120 g/L)	1 L per 60 L diesel	

### Notes

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit read and 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 unless otherwise stated in the permit. The above permit can be used by persons generally in Queensland.

This fact sheet is developed with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.

Fact sheets are available from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) service centres and our Customer Service Centre (telephone 13 25 23). Check our website at [www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au) to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this fact sheet 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, DAFF does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

© The State of Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2014.

