

Japanese sunflower

Tithonia diversifolia



Japanese sunflower is native to Central America. It is a serious environmental weed, forming dense thickets and out-competing native vegetation.

Japanese sunflower is commonly a weed on roadsides and embankments in coastal Queensland and northern coastal New South Wales. It is widespread and common in far north Queensland, particularly on roadsides, embankments, unmanaged lands and fire degraded hillsides.

A similar species *T. rotundifolia* is known as Mexican sunflower. This weed is smaller in height and flower size, and its distribution as an environmental weed is similar to Japanese sunflower in Queensland but not as common in New South Wales.

Declaration details

Japanese sunflower is not a declared plant under Queensland legislation. A local government may declare Japanese sunflower under its own local law.

Description and general information

Japanese sunflower stands erect to 3 m, and has sunflower-like heads up to 10 cm across, with orange-yellow petals 4–5 cm long. The stems are bushy, with five-lobed, serrated hairy leaves, between 6–15 cm in length and 5–12 cm in width.

Mexican sunflower leaves have five broad round-toothed lobes and yellow flower centres with reddish-orange petals.

Management strategies

Japanese sunflowers can be dug out or chipped where infestations are small.

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).

Table 1 Herbicides permitted for the control of Japanese sunflower

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration details
Foliar spray	triclopyr (300 g/L) + picloram (100 g/L) e.g. Grazon DS Herbicide®	350 mL per 100 L water	Registered A DPI permit is required for Shires of Caboolture, Caloundra, Maroochy, Noosa and Pine Rivers because of environmental concerns with picloram.
Spot spray	metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/L)	10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent	PERMIT 11463
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	4 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 11463
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (625 g/L)	3 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 11463

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.

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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 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.