

WEED OF THE MONTH – HAWAIIAN HOLLY (*Schinus terebinthifolia*)

Hawaiian Holly

Schinus terebinthifolia

Common Names

Hawaiian Holly, Broadleaved Pepper, Brazilian Holly, Christmas Berry, Christmas Berry Tree

Family

Anacardiaceae

Origin

South America

Description

An attractive, bushy tree, reaching 5-10m in height. Leaves are bright green and pinnate with 5-9 leaflets. Leaflets attach directly to the central stem. Masses of male and female flowers appear on separate plants in Spring and Autumn. Individual flowers are very small (2mm) and are borne in clusters at the tips of branches. Flowers then develop into large clusters of small fruit (4mm in diameter). Fruit are glossy red and as they mature their skin becomes brittle and flaky.

How do they spread?

Spread by seed. Fruit readily eaten and spread by birds.

Why are they an issue?

Highly prolific seeders and highly capable of colonising and dominating almost all environments. Chemically inhibit the growth of other species, creating dense monocultures that greatly reduce habitat and forest health. Will also establish throughout paddocks, along waterways and roadsides and is inedible to livestock. Being near the tree when it's flowering or touching the sap can cause severe itching, rashes, welts and breathing difficulties.



Where are they likely to occur?

Island wide

How can I control it?

1. Hand weed small seedlings
2. Over spray seedlings and coppice shoots with 1 part glyphosate to 50 parts water
3. Cut, stump/scrape and paint with 1 part glyphosate to 1.5 parts water
4. Stem inject with 1 part glyphosate to 1.5 parts water or 600 mL Garlon to 20 litres of diesel
5. Basal Bark application with 600 mL Garlon to 20 litres of diesel

NOTE: Care should be taken when using Garlon around sensitive areas and native trees.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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