

Environmental Weed of the Month – Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*)

Common names

Australian Ivy Palm, Rubber Tree, Lipstick Palm, Octopus Tree, Umbrella Plant, Umbrella Tree

Family

Araliaceae

Origin

Northern Australia, New Guinea

Description

A multi-stemmed tree that grows quickly to reach heights of 10 (and sometimes 20)m tall. Older trunks are grey/brown. Younger stems are green with small white spots and marked with conspicuous 'leaf scars' where old leaf stalks once grew. Leaves are large (8-30cm), dark green and glossy, growing radially from a large, sturdy leaf stalk (15-60cm), creating an 'umbrella' type appearance. Seedlings may have slight serrations on their leaf edges. Flowers grow out from the top of the plant in radial arrangements on elongated branches. Small red flowers grow in clusters along these branches. The small, round fruit develop afterwards and are deep red/purple when mature.

How do they spread?

Spread by seed, primarily by birds and other animals.

Why are they an issue?

Tolerant to almost all growing conditions, this species will inhabit and outcompete native species. Their roots can also become an issue, invading plumbing and water tanks. disturbed and undisturbed bushland, gardens, pastures, roadsides, valleys, waterways etc.

Where are you likely to find it?

Disturbed and undisturbed bushland, gardens, pastures, roadsides, valleys, waterways etc. Island wide



How can I control it?

1. Hand weed small plants
2. Over spray seedlings 200 mL Glyphosate (360 g/L) per 10 L of water
3. Cut stump or injection method with 1 part Glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water.
4. Basal Bark application with 600 mL Garlon to 20 litres of diesel



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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