

Giant Devil's Fig

Solanum chrysotrichum syn. *Solanum hispidum*

Category R – Reduce populations.

The Problem

Giant devil's fig is a naturalised weed of waterways, riparian zones, floodways, forest margins, pastures, roadsides and disturbed ground, although it will grow almost anywhere. Plants produce lots of fruits which turn yellow when ripe and each contain many seeds. The seeds are readily spread by birds and bats as well as by water. They are fast growing with large leaves and can grow up to 6 metres tall, casting shade on the understory and outcompeting native species. Their growth is sprawling and infestations can render entire areas impassable, particularly due to their sharp spikes which line the trunk and leaves. When spiked, the spike tips can break off under your skin and cause infection as well as surface injuries. The plants contain steroidal glycoalkaloids which are stored in all parts of the plant and can be toxic to animals and humans if eaten in large quantities. Increased presence of Giant devil's fig on agricultural land is suspected to be responsible for poisoning cattle. It is regarded as a serious, class 3 noxious weed in Northern NSW and although QLD only officially classifies it as R, it's a terrible menace and all efforts should be made to remove it.

How to remove it

Cut and paste – All specimens can be removed by cutting at the base and pasting with 50/50 (50% water, 50% Glyphosate) within 10 seconds, so it sucks the chemical into its roots and dies. Take care when removing larger trees and seek the help of a professional if required. Make sure you wear gloves and protective clothing so as not to injure yourself.

WARNING – Herbicides contain hazardous chemicals. Incorrect use can cause injury and damage to the environment. Use with care and contact an expert for advice if unsure.

Prevent the spread!

- Remove before plants flower and fruit.
- Learn to identify young plants and keep an eye out for them after rain and flooding.
- For more information, check out the [Brisbane Weed Profile](#)
- To develop skills in weeding, join your [Local Landcare Group](#)
- For free, professional help with your property, join [Land For Wildlife](#)




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