

WEED FILE:

HIMALAYAN HONEYSUCKLE

REVISED: OCTOBER 2015



DESCRIPTION

Himalayan Honeysuckle is a perennial shrub that grows to about 2-3 metres high.

It inhabits roadside areas, farm hedges, stream margins, plantations, scrubland, wasteland, gullies and forest margins. It can also be found around fences and outlying farm buildings at times. It is more common in wetter locations.

The plant itself is a many-stemmed perennial shrub. The stems are green, straight, hairless and hollow. The leaves are an elongated heart shape, more pointed at the tip than the base, and can be quite large (to about 15cm long).

The species can be best identified by its distinctive white funnel-shaped flowers, surrounded by a collar of larger, drooping, red-purple bracts (a *bract* looks like a cross between a leaf and a flower, and encloses or collars the actual flower). The flowers are present during the period from December to May. Himalayan Honeysuckle also produces drooping clusters of roundish, deep brown-purple berries of 7-10mm diameter, the juice of which is very staining.

The plant disperses via the abundant seeds, which are distributed by birds eating the berries and by waterways transporting fallen berries.

Once established, Himalayan Honeysuckle forms dense thickets that grow aggressively and displace native species.

MANUAL REMOVAL

Isolated or scattered specimens or smaller clumps of Himalayan Honeysuckle can be dug out quite successfully. It is safe to leave plants that have been dug out to wither and rot, but the removed material can also be satisfactorily mulched or composted.

If native species in the removal site are not fast-growing, it can be a good idea to replant the immediate location with something that will 'fill the gap', to discourage re-establishment of the Himalayan Honeysuckle.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

Cut & Stump Paint

- **Glyphosate** at 200ml/L
- **Triclo** at 100ml/L
- **Grassmate** at 100ml/L
- **MSF600** at 5g/L

Any of these four herbicide options is suitable for stump painting. The choice is just a matter of which of the products you have on hand. Cut the plant off as low to the ground as possible, and liberally coat the stump with the herbicide mixture immediately after cutting, to ensure herbicide penetration.

Spot Treatment

- **Buckshot** granules applied dry at 55g per square metre sprinkled around the base of each plant and out to the drip line. The plant is then left to die standing. This is an excellent 'target-of-opportunity' treatment when carried on the bike or ute.

Spraying

For larger thickets and clumps that are impractical for manual removal, spot treatment or cut&swab, the best control method is spraying.

- **Triclo** or **Grassmate** at 6ml/L by knapsack (i.e 90ml in a 15L knapsack)
Add **SprayWetter** penetrant at 15ml/15L.
- **MSF600** at 35g/100L by handgun, plus 100ml **SprayWetter** penetrant.
- **Glyphosate 360** at 1L/100L by handgun or 10ml/10L by knapsack, or **Granny** at 450g/100L by handgun, or 45g/10L by knapsack, plus **SuperWetter** penetrant at 100ml/100L.

The choice of spray treatments depends on the circumstances; **Triclo** and **Grassmate** are grass-friendly while **MSF600**, **Glyphosate 360** and **Granny** are not. In most cases that's unlikely to matter, and the choice can be made on the basis of which product is on hand.

