

Holly

Ilex aquifolium

- Holly may be a familiar looking plant as it is often found on Christmas cards and in decorations.
- Large shrub or tree growing to 15 metres tall.
- Leaves are dark green, glossy and very spiky.
- Flowers are small, whitish, and sweetly scented. They appear late spring to summer.
- Bunches of bright red berries appear in winter.



berries



Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019

tree in
bush

REMOVING HOLLY

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

Handweed:

Seedlings and small plants can be hand pulled or dug out in moist or sandy soil. Take care, as plants break off easily and any remaining roots in the soil will grow new stems. Removed plants can be left on site to break down. Always carry out follow up treatment, as holly often regrows from root fragments.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Stem injection: This method can be used on woody weeds with stems greater than 10 cm in diameter at the base. Drill holes about 5cm apart around each stem, angled downwards into the sapwood just under the bark. Immediately inject herbicide in each hole using a squirt bottle or syringe. Only plants that can be safely left to die and rot should be treated this way. If the plant needs to be felled, allow it to die completely before felling.

Cut and paint: Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and apply herbicide to the exposed stump within 15 seconds.

Basal bark: Basal bark applications can be used to control trees approximately 20 cm in diameter or less, as the bark on smaller trees is often thinner and easier for the herbicide to penetrate. Herbicides, such as triclopyr (eg. Garlon), are mixed with an oil-based penetrant (eg. Biosafe) or diesel, and then painted all the way around the stem from ground level to a height of 50 centimetres. This technique can take several months to show results, so you will need to be patient.

Foliar spraying: Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant with herbicide. This method can be used to control holly, but it is generally limited to smaller plants and regrowth. Herbicides can have difficulty penetrating the thick, waxy leaves of holly. Adding a wetting agent, such as Pulse Penetrant, helps to ensure spraying is effective and kills the plant.

For the most effective control of holly when using herbicides, do not treat during winter when holly plants are dormant. During dormancy, plants do not take up herbicide as effectively as they do in warmer months.

IMPACTS

Holly can invade a wide range of landscapes, including bushland reserves and other natural areas, where it has the ability to outcompete and replace native species. Holly can form very dense thickets and due to the spiky nature of the leaves, can also prevent access for land management and recreational activities.