



1. Habit in flower in spring. 2. Seedling with toothed leaflets. 3. Close-up of tubular flowers. 4. Clusters of golden yellow flowers.



## Golden Trumpet Tree (*Tabebuia chrysotricha*)

Introduced

Not Declared

Golden Trumpet Tree is a member of the Bignoniaceae plant family that is native to Brazil and north-eastern Argentina. It is widely cultivated as a garden and street tree in the sub-tropical and tropical regions of Australia because of its attractive displays of golden yellow flowers in spring.

### Distribution

Golden Trumpet Tree has been recorded becoming naturalised on a few occasions in recent years in northern NSW and south-eastern Queensland. It was first reported spreading from cultivation in the grounds of the Bellingen Hospital in 2003. This population consisted of more than 1000 plants, and ranged from seedlings right up to fruiting trees about 10 m tall.

Smaller populations have also been reported becoming established along the edges of conservation reserves in south-eastern Queensland in recent years (i.e. at The Gap and Burbank in Brisbane). The infestation at Burbank consisted of dozens of immature plants scattered over a large area, ranging from young seedlings to saplings up to 1.5 m tall.

### Description

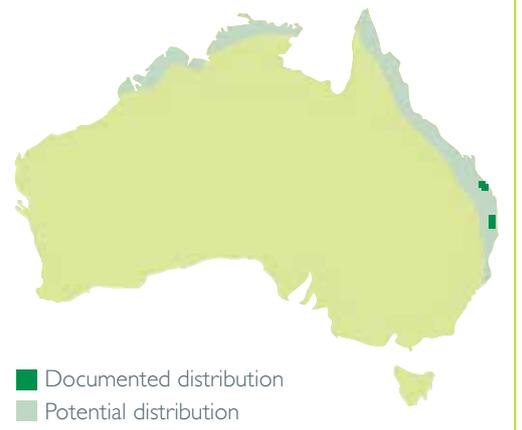
A rather small spreading tree growing 4-10 m tall with branchlets and leaves covered in golden-coloured hairs when young. The leaves of saplings and mature trees have five leaflets that spread from the same point like the fingers of a hand (i.e. they are palmately compound). Each of these leaflets is borne on a stalk up to 7 cm long and is oblong or oval in shape (2-11 cm long and 1-5.5 cm wide) with rounded or shortly pointed tips. They are entire or slightly toothed near their tips, and are also covered in golden-yellow coloured hairs when young. However, young seedlings initially have simple leaves with obviously toothed margins and older seedlings have leaves with three leaflets. The leaves of adult trees are shed during winter.

### Quick Facts

- > A small tree usually growing 4-10 m tall.
- > Its leaves are compound, usually with five leaflets.
- > It produces large numbers of tubular yellow flowers in spring.
- > Its long and slender fruit capsules contain numerous papery seeds.

### Habitat

A potential weed of open forests, urban bushland, forest gaps and margins, riparian vegetation, roadsides and waste areas in the tropical and sub-tropical regions of Australia.





1. Young plant growing in bushland in Brisbane. 2. Adult leaves with five spreading leaflets.

The attractive flowers are produced in abundance in early spring, before the new leaves develop. They are arranged in dense clusters at the tips of the branches, with each flower being stalkless or borne on a stalk up to 5 mm long. These flowers are tubular in shape (4-7.5 cm long) and bright golden yellow in colour; with five shallow petal lobes and reddish pencilling in the throat. The fruit is a long and slender capsule (10-40 cm long and 8-12 mm wide) which is velvety in appearance due to a dense covering of golden or reddish coloured hairs. Each fruit capsule contains large numbers of papery seeds with transparent wings on either side (6-9 mm long and 17-29 mm wide).

## Reproduction and Dispersal

This species produces vast quantities of winged papery seeds that are easily dispersed by wind movement. Seeds may also be spread larger distances in dumped garden waste, by water, or in contaminated soil.

## Why is it an Emerging Threat?

Golden Trumpet Tree is a relatively recent introduction to Australia, but it has become a popular ornamental street tree in recent decades. Due to its wind-dispersed seed, it is considered to have serious invasive potential in northern NSW. It is regarded as a priority weed by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA).

## Control Methods

Seedlings and very young saplings can be removed by hand and disposed of in an appropriate manner. As most plants in known infestations are currently relatively immature, this method can be used in a majority of circumstances at present.

However, larger saplings and trees may need to be controlled using herbicides. While no herbicides are specifically registered for the control of Golden Trumpet Tree in Australia, certain herbicides can be used to control woody environmental weeds in Queensland via the APVMA off-label permit number 11463 (<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PERI11463.PDF>). Please read this permit carefully prior to use and, unless otherwise stated in this permit, the application of these products must be in accordance with the instructions on their labels. Within other state boundaries, it is recommended that all managers consult any relevant permits or government legislation applicable to their region.

## Look a-likes

Some closely-related species with yellow tubular flowers, also known as Golden Trumpet Tree (i.e. *Tabebuia chrysantha* and *Tabebuia aurea*), are also grown as street trees in Australia. However, neither of these species has yellowish hairs covering its new growth.



**Top.** Leaves of *Tabebuia aurea* with narrower, silvery-green, leaflets.

**Bottom.** Leaves of *Tabebuia chrysantha* with larger, more pointed, leaflets.

The control methods referred to in Weed Watch™ should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, Technigro does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

This information has been developed with the assistance of Dr Sheldon Navie. Photographs are also courtesy of Dr Sheldon Navie © Technigro Australia Pty Ltd 2013

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