



1. Habit in flower. 2. Young plant in a garden in St. Lucia, Queensland. 3. Close up of tiny whitish flowers. 4. Larger plant growing in remnant native vegetation in Corinda, Queensland.



Northern Olive (*Chionanthus ramiflora*)

Introduced

Native

Not Declared

This tree is a member of the Oleaceae plant family and is native to the Indian sub-continent, southern China, Taiwan, the Philippines, New Guinea, north-eastern Australia and some Pacific Islands. Within Australia it is only native to the coastal districts of northern and central Queensland, where it is also known as native olive.

Distribution

Northern olive is native to the coastal districts of northern and central Queensland, from the Torres Strait Islands south to the Rockhampton area. It has recently become naturalised in South East Queensland.

Description

A small or medium-sized tree growing 3-25 m tall. The main trunk is covered in greyish or greyish-brown bark, while the younger stems are green, hairless, and slightly flattened. The paired leaves are simple and borne on stalks 2-5 cm long. These leaves (8-20 cm long and 4-7 cm wide) are oval or somewhat elongated in shape with entire margins. They are hairless with bright green and shiny upper surfaces, and paler and duller undersides.

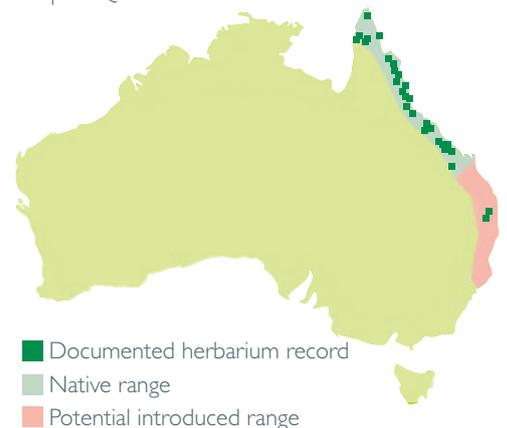
The small flowers are arranged in branched clusters (2.5-12 cm long) in the upper leaf forks or occasionally at the tips of the branches. These flowers are borne on stalks 1-6 mm long. They have four tiny green sepals (about 1 mm long) and four small white or yellowish petals (2.5-5.5 mm long). They also have two stamens and an ovary topped with a short style and stigma. The fruit resembles an olive, and has a hard centre containing a single large seed. These fruit (10-30 mm long and 5-22 mm wide) are usually oval in shape and turn from green to black or bluish-black in colour as they mature. They often have a slight, whitish, powdery coating.

Quick Facts

- > Produces bluish-black fruit that resemble small olives
- > Paired leaves with shiny green upper surfaces and duller undersides
- > Its tiny white or yellowish flowers are arranged in branched clusters

Habitat

In northern Queensland this species is a natural component of the sub-canopy tree layer of tropical rainforests and often grows in disturbed parts of these forests. It is a potential weed of riparian vegetation, urban bushland, rainforest gaps, roadsides, disturbed sites and waste areas in sub-tropical Queensland and Northern NSW.





1. Bluish-black mature fruit. 2. Glossy green leaves

Reproduction and Dispersal

This species reproduces only by seed which are mainly dispersed by birds and other animals that eat its fruit.

Why is it an Emerging Threat?

Northern olive is occasionally cultivated as an ornamental in South East Queensland. However, it has begun to spread from cultivated individuals and become naturalised in the western suburbs of Brisbane. For example, it has spread from plantings in the Sherwood Arboretum becoming established along nearby creeks and coming up under trees in suburban gardens. It has also been recorded in remnant dry rainforest in several Brisbane City Council bushland reserves at Corinda. Saplings have also been reported growing in the vicinity of mature cultivated plants at the Mount Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and at The University of Queensland in St. Lucia.

Control Methods

This species is not a declared plant and therefore its control is not required by law. However, as it is an emerging environmental weed it should be removed from sensitive bushland and conservation areas outside its native range.

Small plants can be pulled out by hand, while larger saplings and trees may need to be treated with herbicides using either the cut-stump or stem injection methods. No chemicals are currently registered for its control in Australia however research suggests Glyphosate may be effective.

Within QLD, the APVMA's Environmental Weeds Permit 11463 is applicable (<http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11463.PDF>). The following table, as found in Permit 11463, states recommended rates and techniques that could be effective in controlling Northern Olive.

Chemical	Rate	Technique
Glyphosate 360 g/L	Undiluted to 1L per 2L water at 1 mL per 2 cm of hole or cut	Drill, frill, axe or stem injection.
Glyphosate 360 g/L	Undiluted to 1 L per 12 L water	Paint stump immediately after cutting; paint basal green bark and/or crown.

Before applying any chemical control methods within other state boundaries, it is recommended that you consult all relevant permits and government legislation.

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 Navie. © Technigro Australia Pty Ltd 2010

Your Provider of Vegetation Management Solutions

Brisbane: 3, 128 South Pine Road, Brendale, QLD. 4550
 Gold Coast: 2-10 Rudman Parade, Andrews, QLD. 4220
 Post: PO Box 2038, Burleigh BC, QLD, 4220
 T: 1800 678 611 www.technigro.com.au

Look a-likes

Northern olive can be confused with some locally native species in south-eastern Queensland including Australian olive (*Olea paniculata*), and the mock olives (*Notelaea* spp.). However, Australian olive has smaller fruit (10-15 mm long) that turn yellowish-brown when mature, while the mock olives have flowers and fruit borne in unbranched clusters.



Top. Australian olive (Photo courtesy of Black Diamond Images)
 Bottom. Mock olive (Photo courtesy of Don Wood)