Mother-in-law’s tongue
Sansevieria trifasciata

Native to Nigeria, mother-in-law’s tongue prefers well-drained soils in shady areas, but will tolerate dry periods. This plant can form dense infestations, preventing regeneration of native plants in bushland and eventually forming a monoculture. It spreads by rhizomes.

Declaration details
Mother-in-law’s tongue is a not declared plant under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002; however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Description and general information
Upright succulent herb or forb that grows to 60 cm. From the fleshy rhizome emerge stiff, lance-shaped leaves, 0.6–1.2 m long, which are dark green with a mottling of grey-green and yellow throughout.
Small, cream to green, tubular flowers are carried on a spike.
Control

Manual control
Carefully dig out isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all fragments of the substantial rhizome system are removed. This requires persistent effort and very regular monitoring of the site and removal of any new growth and its rhizome. To prevent reshooting, all plant pieces should be put into strong bags and removed from bushland.

Herbicide control
Treat larger infestations of mother-in-law's tongue with herbicide.

There is no herbicide currently registered for control of mother-in-law's tongue in Queensland; however, there is an off-label use permit ( Permit No. PER11463 ) that allows the use of various herbicides for the control of environmental weeds in non-agricultural areas, bushland, forests, wetlands, and coastal and adjacent areas.

See Table 1 for treatment options allowed by the permit.

It is important to note that specific research on the use of herbicides to control mother-in-law's tongue has not been undertaken to date. Therefore, the treatment options outlined in Table 1 are suggestions only, based on registered controls for similar weeds in non-agricultural areas and the specifications of PER11463. As such, their effectiveness cannot be guaranteed.

Follow up
Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth.

Further information
Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland (call 13 25 23 or visit our website at www.deedi.qld.gov.au).

Table 1. Herbicides registered for the control of mother-in-law's tongue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Herbicide</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Registration status</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray</td>
<td>Glyphosate (360 g/L)</td>
<td>1 L per 100 L water</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014</td>
<td>Read permit carefully prior to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray</td>
<td>Metsulfuron-methyl (600 g/kg)</td>
<td>10 g per 100 L water</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014</td>
<td>Read permit carefully prior to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spot spray</td>
<td>Imazapyr (250 g/L)</td>
<td>200 ml per 100 L water</td>
<td>APVMA permit PER11463 Permit expires 30/06/2014</td>
<td>Read permit carefully prior to use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read the label carefully before use. Always use the herbicide in accordance with the directions on the label.

Source: PER11463

Prior to using the chemicals listed under PER11463 you must read or have read to you and understand the conditions of the permit. To obtain a copy of this permit contact your local council weed inspector or visit www.apvma.gov.au

It is a requirement of the permit that all persons using products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. Permit number PER11463 expires on 30 June 2014. While the permit may be extended beyond this date, there is no guarantee that it will, so contact your local council weed inspector for the latest information after the expiry date.