Yellow oleander (also known as Captain Cook tree) is native to tropical South America and the West Indies, and has often been planted as an ornamental tree in domestic gardens and amenity situations. When older, the trees are capable of producing large amounts of seed. All parts of the plant are poisonous, especially the seeds that can be fatal if ingested. Yellow oleander has become a highly invasive weed in parts of Queensland, especially along creek systems.

If left uncontrolled, yellow oleander can threaten sustainable pasture production and the environment. Eradication of isolated trees can prevent this situation occurring elsewhere.

**Description**

Yellow oleander is a large, attractive tree that can grow up to 10m high. It has a milky sap and is easily recognised by its narrow, pointed leaves and bell-shaped, waxy flowers.

Flowers are up to 5cm in diameter, slightly fragrant, short lived and may be yellow or peach coloured. Fruit are green (turning black when ripe), lantern shaped, 2.5 – 4cm in diameter and contain 1-2 seeds.

**Management**

Small individual plants may be manually removed, taking care to remove the roots. This option is not feasible for larger specimens.

Isolated individuals can be grubbed out with a blade, either front- or rear-mounted to a dozer or tractor. Dense infestations can initially be cleared with a cutterbar (if the terrain and soil type permit).

Remaining broken and exposed stems should be treated with basal bark spray as soon as possible following clearing. In order to ensure a successful control program, regrowth must be sprayed.

If you would like further information on the control of Singapore daisy, head towards the A–Z Listing of Weeds at Queensland Government Website.

**Reference:** The State of Queensland, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, 2013, “PP150, Weed Busters Fact Sheet”.