Weed Notes: *Paulownia tomentosa*
Princess tree, empress tree, royal paulownia
The Nature Conservancy
Wildland Invasive Species Team

**Summary:** *Paulownia tomentosa* can be controlled most effectively using an integrated management approach. Cutting or girdling trees with power or manual saws are effective at preventing seed production, but repeated cutting or a herbicide treatment is necessary following cutting since *Paulownia* readily resprouts.

For descriptions of each of the following methods or for herbicide information, see TNC’s Weed Control Methods Handbook at: http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/handbook.html

**Manual & Mechanical Control**

*Hand pulling:* Young seedlings of *Paulownia* can be successfully controlled by manual removal. Pulling is easiest following a rain event, as the soil becomes loose. It is important to remove all root fragments as *Paulownia* can resprout from root fragments.

*Cutting and Girdling:* Cutting of *Paulownia* trees is most effective at the onset of flowering. Cutting at ground-level can prevent seed production for that year, but cutting alone must be repeated for several years to successfully kill the tree. Girdling results in top-kill of that stem, but may also induce increased resprouts. Cutting and girdling followed immediately by a herbicide application (cut-stump, hack-and-squirt) has good rates of efficacy.

**Chemical Control**

*Paulownia* can successfully be controlled by herbicides. The most common herbicides used to control *Paulownia* include glyphosate (tradenames RoundUp® Rodeo®) and triclopyr (Garlon 3A® or Garlon 4®).

*Foliar Spray:* *Paulownia* seedlings can be controlled by using a foliar spray of either glyphosate (2% solution with 0.5% nonionic surfactant) or triclopyr (2% solution with 0.5% nonionic surfactant). These spray herbicides should be applied directly to the leaves and sprayed-to-wet.

*Cut-Stump:* Following cutting of the trees at ground-level, glyphosate (25% solution) or triclopyr (50% solution) should be directly applied to the stump. The cut-stump method can be used at all times of the year, as long as the ground is not frozen.

*Girdling or Hack-and-Squirt:* Immediately following girdling (approximately 15 cm above the ground and the cut should be well into or below the cambium layer) or hacking, directly apply glyphosate (25% solution) or triclopyr (50% solution) into the cut area.

*Basal Bark:* Apply a mixture of 25% triclopyr and 75% horticultural oil to the basal parts of the tree to a height of 30-38 cm (12-15 in) from the ground. Thorough wetting is necessary for good control, and spray until run-off is noticeable at the ground line. Basal bark applications should not be applied when the ground is frozen.

**References**


Author: Mandy Tu
The Nature Conservancy’s Wildland Invasive Species Team
Written: December 2002