



ARUM LILY BLITZ

Information on manual removal for arum lily control

Although chlorsulfuron (a very slow acting chemical) is the most recommended solution for controlling arum lily, it may not be suitable if you only have a few lilies and the time and patience to weed them out. Regrowth of surviving plants will occur in following years if you have missed any of the small rhizomes. Follow up each year is essential to success.

When it is appropriate to manually remove:

- Arum lily leaves emerge from the ground in July. Manual removal can be carried out anytime arum lily are actively growing and visible. July through to November. Be sure you can identify them correctly.
- When there are very few arum lilies growing on your property and there is the time available to put in the effort, manual removal is a good solution. This may be a later stage of undergoing an on-going control program. As a reference point for deciding if manual removal is an appropriate option, it takes approximately 10 hours of manual labour to properly remove the weed in a dense patch of 3m². Resulting soil disturbance can encourage other weeds, this should be taken into consideration.
- Seedlings and small plants are much easier to remove than fully grown flowering plants. It takes 2-3 years before they produce small rhizomes.
- Removal of flowers only is better than no control as it will prevent birds spreading seeds. 90% of seed are dropped within 100 metres. Birds can move seeds up to 6 kms.

How to manually remove:

- Always wear protective clothing when handling the poisonous arum lily (long pants and sleeves, boots and gloves). Avoid contact with mouth (eating causes vomiting) and skin (can cause eczema). Wash hands after weeding.
- A shovel, trowel, pitchfork, bucket and sieve are all useful tools for the job.
- When digging out arum lilies be sure you have correctly identified the plant and have not confused it with another plant such as an orchid. It is important to ensure that the entire main tuber and all the attached smaller rhizomes go into the bucket. A sieve is useful at this point to separate the rhizomes from the soil. Rhizomes are capable of producing new growth if they are detached or the tuber dies.
- The green leaves can be discarded. Burying them into the hole the plant came from is one way of discarding them. Arum lilies cannot regenerate from the leaves or the small white roots.

What to do with the arum lily tuber and rhizomes after removal from the ground:

- Solarisation - in sun without soil or water, or wrapping in thick plastic for months until fully degraded.
- Burial - must be over one metre deep, especially for tubers. A pea size tuber can push (till it runs out of carbohydrate) 20cm to the surface.
- Incineration - Be careful not to burn the tubers in bulk as they will not burn completely. If they are not incinerated and are left on the earth, they will regrow next season.
- Alternate option for people in town - put tubers, rhizomes and flowers into FOGO bin, where they will be anaerobically digested. Contents of FOGO bins go to the Bunbury Harvey Regional Council Composting Facility which meets the Australian Standards (AS4454-2012) for pasteurisation (killing weeds, seeds & pathogens). Do not take to a transfer station (eg. Davis Road) to put into green waste as this will be mulched for verges, likely causing further spreading of arum.