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High-intensity fires can kill and open up dense rubber vine infestations.



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High fuel loads and high-intensity fires are most effective for rubber vine control.

Managing rubber vine with fire

Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is an invasive weed that is choking out many woodlands and riverside areas throughout northern Queensland. Not only does it create dense thickets, removing pastoral country from production, it is a refuge for feral pigs and removes ground cover promoting erosion along creeks and rivers. Rubber vine is relatively fire sensitive provided the stem base of each plant is heated. Burning in the late dry season will yield high-intensity fires that may kill most juvenile plants and 50–70% of adult plants. Fires of this intensity need 3–4 t/ha of grass fuel.

Burning on hot days during dry spells in the wet season can also be effective. This method has been used in riverside zones and relies on having significant amounts of litter (e.g. eucalypt leaves, branches and similar debris). This litter provides enough fuel to reach the ignition temperature of green rubber vine leaves, leading to an intense fire.

by Tony Grice

Further reading

Grice, A. C. (1997). *Australian Journal of Ecology* 22: 49–55.



Colin Wilson

Rubber vine infestation chokes out river systems and woodlands.