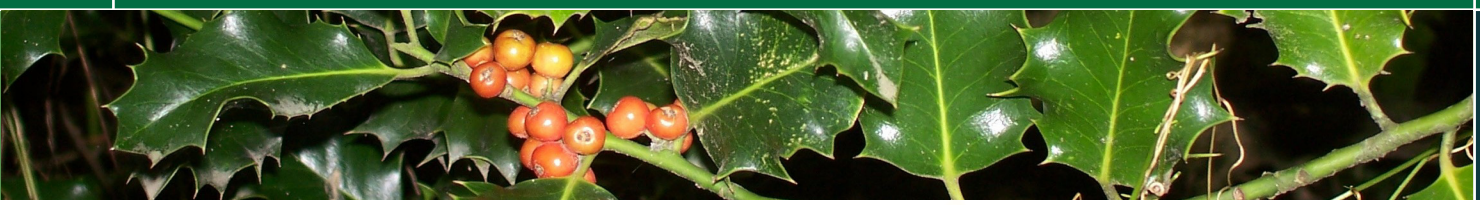

Holly

(Ilex aquifolium)

Holly is a tall evergreen tree with shiny dark green leaves that have sharp spines. It has bright red fleshy berries which are eaten by birds and spread to other areas.

Holly will out compete native trees and shrubs. It can re-sprout after being damaged and the branches will take root if they come into contact with the ground.

How to Control Holly

1 Seedlings of holly pull out easily if you get to them while they are young. Older plants form a long taproot which makes pulling out difficult. These seedlings may need digging out.

2 Holly saplings can be cut and the stem pasted with herbicide. Tordon Brushkiller can be used at a mixture rate of 20 ml/L of water, but extreme care is required. Tordon Brushkiller will harm other vegetation and has a long residual life in the soil. Vigilant can also be used to paste stems, again being careful as it has a long residual life in the soil.

3 Larger holly plants can either be killed standing or felled and the stump pasted as above. If Holly is felled, the stems / branches should be cut up and stacked, as they can take root when in contact with the ground. If killing standing either boring holes or frilling around the stem can be successful.

Bore and fill: Drill holes every 5 cm on a sloping angle. Fill with either undiluted glyphosate, or Tordon Brushkiller (20 ml/L water).

Frilling: Make deep cuts at regular intervals around the stem, taking care not to ring-bark the tree. Immediately apply 1.5 ml of Tordon Brushkiller to each cut.

4 Spraying: Holly leaves have a waxy surface making it difficult to control by spraying. There is no herbicide that is known to be successful for controlling Holly by spraying.

Advice & Information

To find out more information contact:

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