Ligustrum lucidum Ait.

Glossy privet

Family: Oleaceae
Range: California Coast Ranges and some adjacent interior counties. Also found in most southern states from Texas to North Carolina.
Habitat: Disturbed areas, particularly in riparian forest; usually found in urban fringe. The seedlings are tolerant of shade, various soil types, and a range of temperature and moisture regimes.
Origin: Native to China, Korea, and Japan.
Impacts: In Australia, privet establishes dense thickets with shallow, fibrous root systems. These stands occupy riparian areas and exclude native species. Monospecific stands have not yet been reported in California, but the plant is widely naturalized. The fruit and bark contain compounds poisonous to livestock. Some people are allergic to the pollen.

Glossy privet is a popular ornamental tree, 20 to 25 ft tall, that sometimes escapes cultivation. Like its relative, olive, privet is an evergreen tree with opposite leaves. However, glossy privet has larger leaves, leathery and smooth, more than 1 inch wide and 2.5 to 6 inches long, dark glossy green above and pale green below.

Both glossy privet and olive produce pyramid-shaped panicles of cream-colored flowers in early summer. Under moist conditions, a large tree may produce 3 million seeds or more. Seeds have a high rate of viability but usually survive less than 12 months in the soil. Glossy privet reproduces by seed, but can also resprout from the base if cut. Birds disperse the small purplish- to bluish-black, berry-like fruits.

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, disking)	Privet can be effectively controlled by hand pulling of young plants. Plants should be pulled as soon as they are large enough to grasp but before they produce seeds. Plants are best pulled after a rain when the soil is loose. Larger stems, up to 2.5 inches wide, can be removed using a weed wrench or similar uprooting tool. The entire root must be removed since broken fragments may resprout. Mowing or cutting can be used for small initial populations or environmentally sensitive areas where herbicides cannot be used. Stems should be cut at least once per growing season, as close to ground level as possible. Repeated mowing or cutting will control the spread of privet, but will not eradicate it.
Cultural	This species does not carry a burn well. If a burn can be supplemented with other fuels, then privet may be top-killed. This treatment, repeated annually, can eliminate privet over time.
Biological	No biological control agents are available for management of glossy privet, as it is still a widespread ornamental species.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

The following specific use information is based on published papers and reports by researchers and land managers. Other trade names may be available, and other compounds also are labeled for this weed. Directions for use may vary between brands; see label before use. Herbicides are listed by mode of action and then alphabetically. The order of herbicide listing is not reflective of the order of efficacy or preference.

GROWTH REGULATORS	
Triclopyr *Garlon 3A, Garlon*	**Rate:** Spot treatment: 2% product v/v in water, plus 0.5% non-ionic surfactant. Stem injection treatment: 50-100% *Garlon 3A* (amine formulation). Basal bark or drizzle treatment: 10% to 25% v/v *Garlon 4 Ultra*

4 Ultra	(ester formulation), mixed with crop oil. Cut stump treatment: 20% to 25% v/v solution of any formulation. **Timing:** Foliar treatments are effective in spring or fall, less effective in summer. Stem and stump treatments are probably most effective late in the growing season. **Remarks:** Triclopyr is a broadleaf-selective herbicide with very short soil residual. Basal bark treatments have been shown effective in experimental trials. These stem treatments are expected to be effective based on work with other woody species.
Triclopyr + fluroxypyr *Pasturegard HL*	**Rate:** Broadcast treatment: 2 qt product/acre foliar application. Basal bark, drizzle, or cut stump treatment: 50% in oil carrier. **Timing:** These treatments are probably most effective late in the growing season. **Remarks:** Not registered for use in California.
AROMATIC AMINO ACID INHIBITORS	
Glyphosate *Roundup, Accord XRT II*, and others	**Rate:** Spot treatment: 2% to 3% v/v *Roundup ProMax* in water as spray-to-wet foliar treatment. Cut stump treatment: 25% v/v in water. Stem injection treatment: undiluted product. **Timing:** Foliar treatments are effective in spring or fall, less effective in summer. Stem and stump treatments are probably most effective late in the growing season. **Remarks:** Glyphosate is nonselective and has no soil activity. Stem and stump treatments are not labeled but are expected to be effective based on work with other woody species.
BRANCHED-CHAIN AMINO ACID INHIBITORS	
Imazapyr *Arsenal, Habitat, Chopper, Stalker, Polaris*	**Rate:** Broadcast treatment: 4 to 6 pt product/acre (1 to 1.5 lb a.e./acre) as foliar application. Spot treatment: 1% v/v solution for spray-to-wet applications. Stem injection treatment: 20 to 100% *Habitat* or *Arsenal* (aqueous formulation). Basal bark or drizzle treatment: 25% *Chopper* (emulsifiable formulation), mixed with crop oil. Cut stump treatment: 10% to 25% of any formulation. **Timing:** These treatments are probably most effective late in the growing season. **Remarks:** Imazapyr has a fairly long soil residual. It is a nonselective herbicide.
Metsulfuron *Escort*	**Rate:** Spot treatment: 0.035% to 0.05% product plus 0.1% surfactant (e.g., 4.5 to 6.5 oz product plus 13 oz surfactant in 100 gal water) for spray-to-wet applications. Stem injection or cut stump treatment: 0.06% to 0.12% product v/v in water. **Timing:** These treatments are probably most effective late in the growing season. **Remarks:** Metsulfuron has mixed selectivity, but is generally safe on grasses. Use a surfactant. It can be tank-mixed with 2,4-D and/or dicamba and has some soil residual activity. Not registered for use in California.
PHOTOSYNTHETIC INHIBITORS	
Hexazinone *Velpar L*	**Rate:** Broadcast treatment: 2 to 8 qt product/acre (1 to 4 lb a.i./acre) as foliar application. Cut-stump treatment: 10% v/v in water. **Timing:** Apply in spring, from bud break until new growth hardens off. **Remarks:** Hexazinone is active with both foliar and soil treatments. In soil applications, rates will vary with soil texture and soil organic matter; best results if applied when soil is moist. The use rates will also vary depending on the situation. Hardwood trees near application site can absorb this chemical through the roots. High rates of hexazinone can create bare ground, so only use high rates in spot treatments.
Tebuthiuron *Spike*	**Rate:** 7.5 lb *Spike 80DF*/acre (6 lb a.i./acre) in soil-applied spot treatments; 0.375 to 0.75 oz *Spike 20P* per 100 sq ft for control of individual plants. **Timing:** Apply in spring before rapid seasonal growth. **Remarks:** Tebuthiuron has no foliar activity; root uptake only. Do not apply in the vicinity of desirable plants. Nearly all vegetation in the application area will be killed, and this chemical has long soil residual activity. Results may vary with soil type. Tebuthiuron will leach in sandy soils.

RECOMMENDED CITATION: DiTomaso, J.M., G.B. Kyser et al. 2013. *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States*. Weed Research and Information Center, University of California. 544 pp.