

# Darwin's Barberry

*(Berberis darwinii)*

## Is Darwin's Barberry on your property?

Darwin's barberry is included in our Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy as an 'occupier control' plant, i.e. if this plant occurs on land you own or are leasing you are obliged to control it. Costs of treatment are the responsibility of the landowner. It is important that this plant is prevented from spreading. If you see any plants growing in the Region, please freephone 0508 800 800.



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## Identification

Evergreen, spiny shrub to 4+ m tall. Stems tough and yellow-wooded, densely hairy with tough needle-sharp 5-pronged spines. Leaves prickly, hairless and glossy, dark green. Flowers deep yellow-orange from July–Feb. produce purple-black berries with bluish bloom. Often confused with the European barberry, *B. vulgaris*, which is deciduous and has red berries.

## Weedy characteristics

Seeds are well dispersed. Tolerates cold, damp and dry conditions, wind, salt, shade, damage, many soils and grazing. Long lived.

## Methods of dispersal

Birds and possibly possums, occasionally soil and water movement.

## Impact on indigenous plants

Replace shrubland and regenerating forest. Occasionally found in open habitats.

## Typical habitats

Roadsides, farm hedges, disturbed forest and shrubland, tussock land, meadows and bare land.

## Control

1. Stump swab: Escort at label rates, or Tordon BK, 10%. All year round.
2. Cut and squirt: 2 ml Escort @ 20 g/L, per 100 mm of trunk. All year round.
3. Spray: Escort or Tordon BK at label rates. Spring -Autumn

## Site management

Prefers bare sites, so avoid selective sprays. Follow up 6-monthly. Replant bare sites to minimise seeding.

## Species recovery

Cut stumps resprout quickly and can be hard to kill. Seeds rapidly on bare land.

**For more information freephone 0508 800 800.**

