

Evergreen buckthorn

(Rhamnus alaternus)

Is Evergreen buckthorn on your property?

Evergreen Buckthorn is included in our Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Containment plant. This means that within a defined control area the pest plant species will be controlled wherever it is found. The focus of control is placed where infestations are low or where the pest plant in question poses a high risk. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on free phone

0509 800 800

Evergreen shrub or tree 2-3m tall, may be smaller in exposed sites. Shoots are angular, hairy and purplish. Leaves elliptical, leathery, glossy above and either entire or toothed. Male and female flowers on separate plants. Flowers small, green, fragrant, with no petals, usually coned in hairy racemes or panicles, May-November. Many showy, glossy fruit, dark red turning black, December-January.

Weedy characteristics

Quick-growing and long lived, forming dense stands. Produces many viable, long-lived and well dispersed seed. Tolerant to salt, wind, poor soils, frost and heat, damage and grazing.

Methods of dispersal

Birds, possible soil movement, dumped vegetation.

Impact on indigenous plants

Forms dense stands, so prevents regeneration. Acts as low shrub on windswept rocky shores or understory shrub in tall canopy.



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Typical habitats

Coastal and other scrublands, cliffs, forest margins, inshore and offshore islands, rocky lands. Hedges, gardens.

Control

1. Pull or dig small plants. Mulch. All year round.
2. Swab stump with Grazon, Tordon BK 20%, or glyphosate 25%. All year round.
3. Spray with Grazon at gorse rates + penetrant. Spring-summer.
4. Cut and squirt with Grazon or Tordon BK, 10ml/cut, 1 cut/50 mm stem diameter. All year round.

Site management

Remove all browsing pests. Follow up sites 6 monthly until eliminated, before replanting. In large stands, control female plants first to minimise seeding.

Species recovery

Bare sites reseed profusely. Stumps resprout.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

