

Privet

What is it?

There are two types of Privet in this region: a small leaf species and a broad leaf species. Both are introduced plants originating from China and Japan. Introduced as ornamental garden plants, they have adapted to our climate and spread into our native bushland areas and vacant allotments.

What does it look like?

The plant produces masses of flowers in early spring, and the perfume and pollen is believed to be responsible for triggering allergic reaction in susceptible people. Propagation is primarily by seed, with birds being the main agents for spreading the plant.

Privet can grow into large shrubs up to 4 metres high, and form almost impenetrable thickets along creekbanks and in gullies. It can also be found as isolated plants along fencelines or under trees, where birds have dropped seed. Once established Privet can be difficult to control.

Control Measures

Physical control:

Removal can be effective if care is taken to remove all roots (plants will regrow from rootstock). After removal of mature plants, it is common to have seed germination from the seedbank that is formed under the shrubs.

Privet

Ligustrum sinense. L.lucidum

Privet is a category W4b Noxious weed in the Newcastle City Council area. All other areas consider it as environment pest weed and recommend that it be controlled.



Herbicide control:

There are various methods or techniques available, with the cut stump method most used. Plants are cut-off 10 –20cm above ground, and the stump treated with a suitable herbicide such as *Roundup* or *Grazon*. Plants may also be treated with an overall foliar application, depending on the situation that they are growing in. Contact your local supplier for details of registered herbicides.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2004). Users are reminded of the need to ensure that any product purchased for the control of Privet is registered for that purpose. The author cannot take responsibility for any changes, or modifications, that are made to product registration or requirements that may occur after January 2004.

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