

Hawthorn

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 24 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Hawthorn

Botanical Name: *Crataegus monogyna*

Origin: Europe

Size: 5m–10m H

Flowers: October to December

Fruit: February to May

Status: Declared noxious weed

Best removal time: September—
January

How to dispose of weeds:

Recovery & Transfer centres:

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose weeds, contact the Environment Dept. on 1300 368 333. Limited availability.

OR

Fortnightly Garden Organics Bin

Service. *Note: This service is only available to properties within eligible service areas. For more information, contact the Waste Management services on 1300 368 333.*

OR

Bundled green waste service. *Note:*

Check your Residential Recycling & Waste guide for details of the next service in your area.

What it does...

Invades gardens, bushland and stream sides. Tolerates damp and shady conditions. Takes over and displaces indigenous shrubs and small trees. May be dangerous to cattle.

What it looks like...

Hawthorn is a deciduous, erect plant that has long thorns. It can grow in the form of a large shrub or a tree up to 10 metres tall. The branches spread out widely and are often tangled. Leaves are alternate and are usually 3-7 lobed. Flowers are white or pink and the fruit is fleshy and a dark red colour when ripe.

How it spreads...

Hawthorn spreads:

- by seeds dispersed by birds and animals in their droppings. The seed is contained in the berries and readily regenerates.
- by gradually suckering along the ground, forming thickets.
- as it is sold at some nurseries, markets and fetes. Re-planting in historical gardens. Buyer beware!
- by contaminated soil and mud.
- by dumping of garden plants and waste.
- by machines and vehicles.

How to remove it...



HAND: This is only recommended for small seedlings and smaller bushes where practical. It is often useful to hand remove the smaller seedlings around the larger mature shrubs. Remaining roots will reshoot.



CUT & PAINT: Cut the shrubs off at ground level and paint stump immediately with an undiluted glyphosate based product. This is the preferred method for shrubs that are too small to drill and fill.



DRILL & FILL: Drill holes 25-30mm deep in the trunk and around 5cm apart. Drill holes as close to the root zone as possible. Fill the hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. Large trees will need several holes drilled or the bark chipped around the trunk.

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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many tree and large shrub alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Hawthorn.

Some alternatives include:



Prickly Currant-bush, *Coprosma quadrifida*



Sweet Bursaria, *Bursaria spinosa*



Rough Coprosma, *Coprosma hirtella*



Photos: David Blair; Marilyn Gray, Healesville Sanctuary

Useful websites

The following is a list of useful information resources:

- For a list of indigenous plant nurseries, see [Indigenous Plant Nurseries list](#).
- For a list of other weeds in Yarra Ranges, see [Environmental Weeds list](#).
- For a list of chemical/herbicide contractors, see [Contractor and supplier list](#).
- For descriptions of the local plants and the weeds of the Shire of Yarra Ranges see www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants

WARNING IF USING CHEMICALS

If you are weeding, all chemical use must be done as per manufacturers' guidelines. Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eye wear at all times. Take care and protect yourself, your family, pets and the natural environment (waterways, indigenous plants, wildlife) from coming into contact with chemicals.

When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Product suppliers are required to make these sheets available at the point of sale. If a sheet is not available, notify the product manufacturer and the state authority. For further information go to www.apvma.gov.au or call the Poisons Information Service on 13 11 26.

For information on State-listed noxious weeds contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 136 186. Remember, as a landowner you are required by State law to control and remove noxious weeds on your land.

Produced by the Environment Department of Yarra Ranges Council.
Working with communities to wipe out weeds for a better future.

