

Red Cestrum

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 33 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Red Cestrum

Botanical Name: *Cestrum elegans*

Origin: Mexico

Size: 2 ~ 3 m H

Flowers: June to November

Fruits: January to April

Best removal time: June to January

How to dispose of weeds:

Recovery & Transfer centres:

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose off your 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...

It readily regenerates, invading cool moist bushland areas seriously impacting and threatening the indigenous plant life of the Yarra Ranges by out-competing local species. Plants sucker to form dense thickets.

Red Cestrum is a medium-sized shrub similar in appearance to a fuchsia. It has large dark green leaves which have a very unpleasant smell when crushed.

Cestrum forms dense clusters of red trumpet-like flowers, drooping at the ends of branches. In late summer/early autumn it produces dark purple berries.

How it spreads...

- by birds which eat the red berries. Birds can then travel over vast areas depositing seeds in droppings allowing the plant to generate in new areas.
- by seeds or root suckers getting into waterways, with soil movement or on machinery.
- by dumping of garden waste in bushland, on roadsides and in waterways.
- by leaving cut branches laying on the ground, segments can take root and grow into a new plant.

How to remove it...

To save further spread the most effective removal time for Red Cestrum is before the seeds ripen



HAND: all roots need to be removed while minimising disturbance to surrounding soil. Any remaining roots will re-shoot. Removal of seed heads first will prevent the spread of seeds.



CUT & PAINT: Cleanly cut as close to the ground as possible and immediately paint with poison.

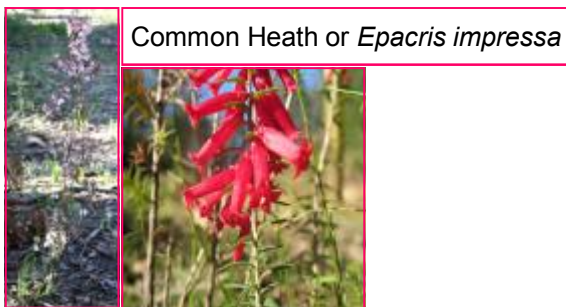
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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many shrub alternatives indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region are available and would make great substitutes for Red Cestrum.

Some alternatives include:



Photos: Caroline Carvalho: Marilyn Gray, Kelly Hofert

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.