

# Radiata Pine

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 6 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** Radiata Pine

**Botanical Name:** *Pinus radiata*

**Origin:** Native to California, USA

**Size:** 25m to 50m H

**Seeds:** Cones open at any time of year

**Flowers:** Late Winter

**Best removal time:** All year

## 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 bush areas and starves indigenous vegetation of moisture, nutrients and light, killing and restricting the growth of indigenous species. It also increases soil acidity and smothers vegetation with its dead needles.

## What it looks like...

Radiata Pine is a tall evergreen tree that grows up to 50m in height. The dark bark is deeply furrowed. It has dark green needle-like leaves in groups of three (rarely 2) in dense clusters along stems. Flowers are in cones, the male yellow and short lived, the female greyish-brown, remaining on the tree for many years. Radiata Pine is used in plantations for the production of softwood timber. Most live Christmas trees that are purchased in the festive season are Radiata Pine.

## How it spreads...

Large seed-bearing cones, taking 2-3 years to mature, are produced at the ends of branches. The seeds are winged and are dispersed by wind and animals throughout the year. They can be blown a considerable distance from the parent tree. Also spread by dumped cones.

## How to remove it...



**HAND:** Hand removal is recommended for small seedlings where practical. Radiata Pine can also be controlled without herbicide by simply cutting the tree down. Ringbarking plants below living branches or foliage can also be done without the use of herbicide. This can take anything up to 2 years. To kill the tree faster, use a small amount of a glyphosate-based herbicide in the cut. Dead trees need to be cut down.



**DRILL AND FILL:** Drill shallow holes (20mm) in the trunk as close to the root zone as possible. Fill each hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. The tree will then slowly die and may need to be removed later.

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## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Any overstorey tree that is indigenous to the Shire of Yarra Ranges would make great substitute for the Radiata Pine.

Some alternatives include:



White Cypress Pine, *Callitris collumellaris*



Black Sheoak, *Allocasuarina littoralis*



Photos: weed; Shire staff, Marilyn Gray, Steve Meacher

## 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](http://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](http://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.