

Montbretia

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 8 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Montbretia

Botanical Name: *Crocsmia x crocosmiiflora*

Origin: South Africa

Size: 60m to 90m H

Flowers: December to April

Fruits: December to April

Best removal time: October- April

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...

The plant invades gardens, bushland, roadside areas and stream sides. It tolerates all conditions and can take over and displace indigenous grasses, groundcovers and over-storey regeneration.

Montbretia is a perennial herb which dies back annually. It is grass-like in appearance and often mistaken for Watsonia. It has strap-like flat leaves around 30 – 80 cm long and 1 - 2 cm wide. It was a popular garden plant due to its bright orange trumpet-shaped flowers, which form in two rows along each stem.

New growth is produced in early spring and small bulbils can be produced from the flower base. The fruit is a 3-lobed brown capsule that produces few seeds.

How it spreads...

- natural regeneration is usually next to the parent plant from corms that spread rapidly underground to produce new plants.
- as a result of ground disturbance, dumping of garden waste and by attaching to machinery.
- It is often sold in nurseries, fetes or market stalls.

How to remove it...

To save you time and energy the most effective removal of Montbretia is just before full flowering occurs around Spring and Summer and digging out bulbs when the soil is wet.



HAND: Hand removal is only practical for small clumps of the weed. Use a garden fork to dig all corms and underground stems to ensure complete removal. Cut stems first if the plant is in seed.



SPRAY: Montbretia can be sprayed with a glyphosate-based product or alternatively you can swipe leaves with poison using a dabber bottle.



DIG: Dig out patches of Montbretia weed carefully when soil is moist as corms break off easily; corms often form linked chains.

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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many clumping alternatives indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region are available and would make great substitutes for Montbretia.

Some alternatives include:



Photos: weed; Biodiversity library, Marilyn Gray, Colleen Miller, Marty White, Council staff

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.

