

Blue Periwinkle

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 15 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Blue Periwinkle

Botanical Name: *Vinca major*

Origin: Southern Europe & North Africa

Size: Trailing ground cover

Flowers: May–January

Best removal time: October–January

How to dispose 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...

Blue Periwinkle invades damp to wet areas. Prefers shade but grows in full sun provided conditions are moist the majority of the time. It can completely dominate the understorey.

What it looks like...

Leaves are a broad oval shape 4-8cm long and 1-5cm wide and are opposite each other on the stems and at right angles to those above and below. They are usually a shiny dark green above and paler green below, sometimes variegated. Flowers are 3-5cm across and have 5 lilac-blue petals, flowering from winter to summer. Stems can grow up to a metre in length.

How it spreads...

This plant mainly spreads vegetatively with little or no seed dispersal. Stems grow up and arch over, taking root as they touch the soil. Leaf nodes will also take root. The plant eventually forms a dense mat that smothers native vegetation and then prevents any new native plants from growing.

Plants are dispersed through dumping of plants or soil containing parts of stems or roots. It is sold through nurseries, markets and fetes. Buyer beware!

How to remove it...



HAND: Small infestations can be forked which is best done when the soil is moist, usually following rain. Ensure that all roots and stems are removed, otherwise the plant will continue to grow. Dispose of plant material carefully as it spreads very easily.



SPRAY: Generally plants should be in an active growing stage and not be under any stress. Slashing the area in winter - early spring and then spraying the regrowth can increase the chance of success and reduce the amount of chemical required. Adding surfactants may improve the effectiveness of some herbicides. Many herbicides can only be applied by a registered chemical user.

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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many groundcover alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Blue Periwinkle.

Some alternatives include:



Photos: Marty White, Gavin Prentice; Jean Edwards, Marilyn Gray, Colleen Miller, Swee Oon

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.

