

# Wild Tobacco Tree

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 14 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** Wild Tobacco Tree

**Botanical Name:** *Solanum mauritianum*

**Origin:** Argentina

**Size:** 3m~4m H

**Flowers:** Autumn to Spring

**Fruit:** especially in spring to autumn

**Best removal time:** Before seeds form

**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...

This small tree is highly invasive, forming dense stands in forest areas competing with other trees and shrubs. It is found primarily along creeks and rivers, although it can spread right through most forest types. All parts of the plant are toxic and should not be ingested (take particular care with small children).

## What it looks like...

The plant grows very quickly into an open branched large shrub or small tree. The leaves are highly distinctive - long (to 30cm), light grey-green with obviously furry surface on the top and underside. The smaller branches are also furry. Flowers and fruit grow throughout the year. Open purple flowers are in large flat-topped clusters, fruit are clustered like grapes, green at first, turning dark yellow when ripe.

## How it spreads...

Wild Tobacco fruits are eaten and spread long distances by birds and animals. Water can wash seeds down to new sites. Seeds germinate readily after fire.

## How to remove it...



**HAND:** Seedlings to 1.5m can be pulled out (easiest when soil is moist). Larger plants can be dug out. This plant is toxic, so wear gloves and wash hands after removal. Also wear a face mask and goggles as the plant can cause irritation of throat and eyes.



**CUT & PAINT:** Larger plants (that are too large to pull out) can be sawn off near ground level and the stump painted with an undiluted glyphosate-based product to prevent re-growth. Wear a face mask and goggles as the plant can cause irritation of throat and eyes.

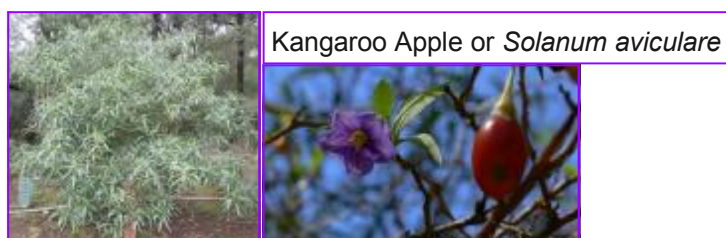
# Wild Tobacco Tree

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 14 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges

## 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 Wild Tobacco Tree.

Some alternatives include:



Photos: Emma Campbell; Biodiversity library, Marilyn Gray, Shire staff, Marty White

## 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.