

# Sycamore Maple

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 16 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** Sycamore Maple

**Botanical Name:** *Acer pseudoplatanus*

**Origin:** Central & Southern Europe

**Size:** 12 to 30m H

**Flowers:** September to November

**Fruits:** December to May

**Best removal time:** October to March

## 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...

Invades damp and wet forest areas, stream sides and gardens. Very hardy and tolerant to extreme conditions. Takes over and displaces indigenous middle storey and upper story species.

## What it looks like...

Tall, fast-growing, long-lived deciduous tree. It is strongly branched and has a wide, domed canopy. Bark is grey, smooth on young plants, becoming scaly and reddish on maturity.

It has dark green maple-shaped leaves that look similar to but smaller than plane trees. Leaves are 3-5-lobed and can be light green or purple underneath. Flowers are small, not easily seen and yellowish. Produces wing-shaped seeds in summer that travel in the wind similar to a propeller.

## How it spreads...

Seeds prolifically with each tree producing up to 10,000 seeds per year. Wind, water, mulch and soil easily carry the seed. Will germinate from prunings dumped as garden waste. It is sold at some markets, fetes and nurseries. Buyer beware!

## How to remove it...

To save you time and energy the most effective removal treatment time for Sycamore is early Autumn, just before leaves change colour.



**HAND:** Hand remove smaller plants in moist soils. The roots can be quite deep so be sure to remove as much of the root system as possible.



**CUT & PAINT:** For larger seedlings or smaller trees, cleanly cut as close to the ground as possible and immediately paint with an undiluted glyphosate-based product.



**DRILL & FILL:** Drill shallow holes in the trunk as close to the root zone as possible, about 2-3cm deep and 5 to 6cm apart. Fill each hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate product.

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## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

There are many impressive trees that are indigenous to the Shire of Yarra Ranges that would make great substitutes for the Sycamore Maple.

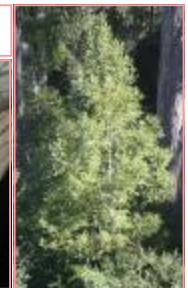
Some alternatives include:



Blanket Leaf, *Bedfordia arborescens*



Sassafras, *Atherosperma moschatum*



Musk Daisy-bush, *Olearia argophylla*



Photos: Shire staff, Marilyn Gray, Peter Kinchington, Shire 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](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.

Produced by the Environment Department of Yarra Ranges Council.  
Working with communities to wipe out weeds for a better future.

