

Desert Ash

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 39 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Desert Ash

Botanical Name: *Fraxinus angustifolia*

Origin: South-west Asia,
Mediterranean

Size: 10m–20m H

Flowers: August — October

Fruit: November—February

Best removal time: August–October

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...

Desert Ash was once a popular deciduous tree used commonly in streetscapes and gardens. It establishes in bushland and grasslands and also along stream banks and drainage lines. It out-competes native plants for moisture, light and nutrients and takes over these areas.

What it looks like...

This deciduous tree is very dense with a rounded crown and can grow to around 20 metres in height. The bark is a grey-brown colour with prominent ridges. The leaves are opposite and around 14-20 cm long. Each leaf contains around 5-7 leaflets although sometimes can contain up to 13. The seeds form in large, drooping clusters and are flat, winged at the top and slightly twisted. Desert ash flowers are inconspicuous, green or purple in colour and appear in spring.

How it spreads...

Spreads by:

- seeds that are dispersed mainly by wind and water.
- root suckers, can form dense stands when established this way.
- Readily available from nurseries and garden centres.

How to remove it...



HAND: With smaller plants and seedlings hand pulling is the best option, removing all roots. Be sure to cover up the disturbed area to reduce further weed recruitment.



CUT & PAINT: For trees that cannot be hand pulled or dug out, cut them off at ground level and paint the stump immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product.



DRILL & FILL: Drill several shallow holes (around 2-3cm deep) around the base of the trunk. Fill each hole immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product. The tree will then slowly die and may need to be removed later. This is useful when you do not want to open a hole in the canopy by removing a large tree.

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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many tree alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Desert Ash.

Some alternatives include:



Forest Lomatia, *Lomatia fraseri*



River Bottlebrush,
Callistemon sieberi



River Lomatia, *Lomatia myricoides*

Lomatia myricoides flower reprinted with permission from "Flora of Melbourne", 1991, Australian Plants Society Maroondah, Inc. Hyland House

Photos: Weed, Shire staff, Marilyn Gray, Colleen Miller, Caroline Carvalho

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.

