

# Willow

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet  
Ranked 22 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



**Common Name:** Willow

**Botanical Name:** *Salix* species

**Origin:** Western Europe

**Size:** Up to 20m H

**Flowers:** August to October

**Fruit:** November to January

**Status:** Weed of National Significance  
Declared Noxious Weed

**Best removal time:** August—March

## 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...

Willow trees cause great devastation along our waterways. They invade areas, overpowering the native vegetation. Their root systems clog the waterways and deciduous leaves increase the nitrogen levels in the water, killing many aquatic species and degrading water quality.

## What it looks like...

There are at least 4 species of willow which have become environmental weeds within the Yarra Ranges. These trees can grow from around 5m to 30m or more and can have both single or multiple trunks. Some willows are droopy with long thin stems, but other species are more upright. Leaves are light green to dull green, long and thin or smaller, broader and greyish as with the most common local willow, Grey Sallow. Tiny flowers are clustered on flowering spikes (catkins).

## How it spreads...

- They spread by seed which is easily transported by water, wind, on machinery and also through soil contamination.
- Willow is a vigorous grower and can resprout from small branch segments even if mulched.
- It can also regrow from discarded branches.
- Available for sale in nurseries and markets. Buyer beware.

## How to remove it...



**HAND:** Trees less than a metre can sometimes be removed by hand, just ensure that the roots are removed as well otherwise it will continue to grow. Cut and paint is a more thorough method.



**CUT & PAINT:** This method is best for trees that are too large to hand pull and too small to drill and fill. Cut the tree off at ground level and paint the stump immediately with an undiluted glyphosate-based product.

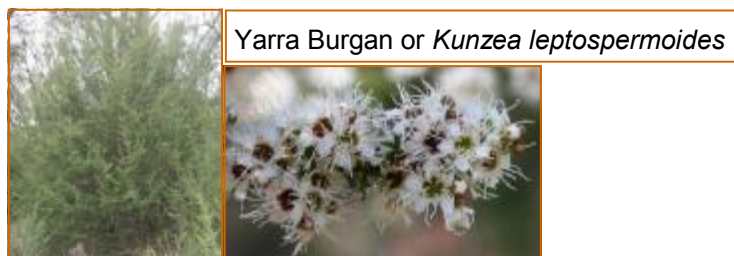


**DRILL & FILL:** Drill holes around the trunk on a 45 degree angle to a depth of around 2-3cm. Drill the holes close to the base of the trunk. Fill each hole immediately with undiluted glyphosate-based product. The tree will die slowly and will need to be removed later. However retaining the root system is advisable to reduce soil erosion.

## Indigenous alternatives to plant...

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

Some alternatives include:



Autumn Tea Tree or *Leptospermum grandifolium*



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

Photos: Weed; Marilyn Gray, Peter Kinchington, 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](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

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