

# RADIATA/MONTEREY PINE

(*Pinus radiata*)

Lynton Bond



Weed: radiata pine seedlings spreading from a wind break planting

Molonglo Catchment Group



Weed: young radiata pine

Molonglo Catchment Group



Weed: radiata pine.  
Note the leaves in groups of three

## Why is radiata pine a weed?

- Invasive, often spreading from plantations and early European settlements and re-establishing effectively after fire
- Fast growing
- Outcompetes natives, including trees such as eucalypts
- Once established, canopy blocks light from understorey species
- Pine needles form dense mats on the ground suffocating native vegetation

## Description

**Plant:** to 50m tall, evergreen with dark brown bark that becomes furrowed as the tree ages

**Leaves:** needles in groups of three, 8-15cm long

**Seeds:** held in cones, black, winged

**Flowers:** both male and female flowers are borne on each plant, with the female flowers developing into pine cones

**Fruit:** cones that can remain closed for years, male and female on same plant

## Dispersal via

- Cockatoos spread seed over a long range
- Seed spreads by wind, often from plantations and plantings around properties

## Status

Radiata pine is not listed as a noxious weed or pest plant anywhere in the Molonglo Catchment however it is an important species for control due to its invasive nature. It is recommended that this plant is not purchased or grown anywhere in the Molonglo Catchment unless in official forestry plantations.



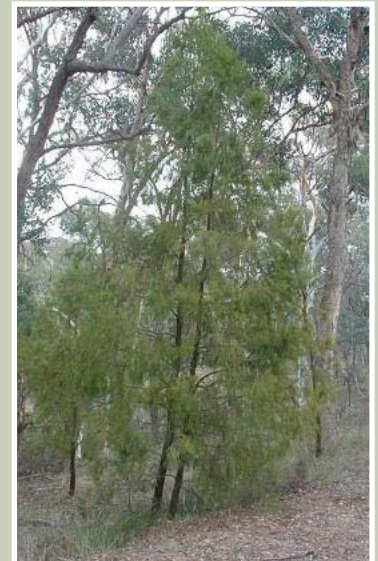
### Look-alikes

Native plants can often be confused with weed species. The following information aims to assist you with accurate identification to prevent the loss of our declining natives. If you are unsure what species you are dealing with, take advantage of the identification services on offer from your local weeds officer (either at your local council or the ACT's Parks, Conservation and Lands) before carrying out any controls.

There a number of other similar plants, some of which are natives and should not be removed and some of which are also weeds. **Black Cypress-pine** (*Callitris endlicheri*) and **cherry ballart** (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) are two native species that could be mistaken for radiata pine. Both these look-alikes can be differentiated by their aroma - neither have the distinctive pine perfume when the leaves are crushed. **Cherry ballart** has hard green fruit at the end of a swollen red fleshy 'stalk'.



Native: black cypress-pine



Native: cherry ballart

Adam Muylt

Friends of the Aranda Bushland Inc

### Control methods

For advice on what time of year to implement the following management options, see the Molonglo Catchment Weed Control Calendar.

This species has many benefits, including its use for softwood production and windbreaks - hence its introduction. However, due to its weedy nature, described above, planting this species should be avoided and any young plants should be hand pulled or dug out. Cut larger plants as near to ground as possible, chemical shouldn't be required. If cutting younger trees, chemicals can be applied to ensure no regrowth occurs.

Seek advice on chemical application from your Council Weeds Officer or local 'bush friendly' nursery. Always use chemicals as directed on the label.