

PRIVET Broad & Narrow-leaf privet

(*Ligustrum lucidum* & *L. sinense*)

Jackie Miles/Max Campbell



Weed: broad-leaf privet

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Weed: broad-leaf privet

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Weed: narrow-leaf privet

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Weed: narrow-leaf privet

Why is privet a weed?

- Highly invasive, especially in disturbed native bushland, and tolerant of poor soil, pollution and neglect
- Leaves and fruit are poisonous to both humans and animals
- Each plant produces copious numbers of berries and seeds
- The berries support unnaturally high populations of Currawong which prey on hatchlings of other, native bird species after depleting the supply of berries
- Seeds are eaten by birds, dropped in bushland and develop into plants with dense leaf cover, shading out native vegetation

Description

Plant: evergreen shrubs or small trees to 7m high, smooth grey bark, raised white dots (lenticels) found on young branches

Leaves: shiny, dark green, in opposite pairs, oval in shape, tapering to a point, to 13cm long in broad-leaf privet and 7cm in narrow-leaf privet

Seeds: in black or blue-black berries

Flowers: small, white, in clusters at branch ends, broad-leaf privet flowers in summer, narrow-leaf privet flowers in spring

Fruit: fleshy black/blue-black/purple-black berries, 4-7mm wide, form in large dense clusters ripening in late autumn and winter

Dispersal via

- Birds eat berries and distribute seeds in their droppings
- Suckering from roots when parent plants removed

Lynton Bond



Weed: narrow-leaf privet invading bushland

Fact sheets are available from the Molonglo Conservation Group website. Visit www.molonglo.org.au or call 62992119 for more information about getting involved in your living environment.

Information used to compile this fact sheet was kindly provided by the Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committee: www.southeastweeds.org.au

Status

Broad-leaf and narrow-leaf privet are not listed as noxious weeds in the NSW section of the Molonglo Catchment however they are important species for control due to their invasive nature. It is recommended that this plant is not purchased or grown anywhere in the Molonglo Catchment. In the ACT, broad-leaf and narrow-leaf privet are class 4 pest plants whose supply is prohibited.

Look-alikes

European privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) is the most similar privet seen on the Southern Tablelands. It is a shrub usually about one metre high with sparser, rounded leaves and small clusters of black berries.

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Weed: European privet

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Weed: European privet

Control methods

For advice on what time of year to implement the following management options, see the Molonglo Catchment Weed Control Calendar. Seek advice on chemical application from your Council Weeds Officer or local 'bush friendly' nursery. Always use chemicals as directed on the label.

Replace privet with non-weedy native species in your gardens. Hand pull seedlings. Cut and paint larger plants. If parent plant is removed, follow up control will be required on resultant seedlings. Hand pull or spray if prolific.