

HAWTHORN

(Crataegus monogyna)

Shire of Yarra Ranges



Weed: hawthorn berries

Mark Imhof



Weed: hawthorn flowers

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Why is hawthorn a weed?

- Invades bushland and out-competes native vegetation
- Unlike some weeds, hawthorn can establish in relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems
- Tolerates a range of climatic conditions including drought and frost (prefers moist soils)
- Long lived plant (estimations up to 70 years)
- Restricts access for both stock and humans
- Provides harbour for feral animals such as foxes and rabbits

Description

Plant: varies in form from large shrub to tree, up to 10m, thorns to 2.5cm, deciduous, erect, smooth bark that's rougher near base

Leaves: alternate along branches, 3-7 lobes per leaf, up to 6cm in length

Seeds: single brown, oval shaped, contained in red berries (mature plant can have thousands of berries)

Flowers: sweetly perfumed, white, cream or pink, to 1cm diameter, during spring

Fruit: fleshy red berries from late summer through to autumn

Dispersal via

- Birds and animals (e.g. possums and foxes) eat the berries and distribute them in their droppings
- Progressive spread along ground via suckering, especially when roots are damaged
- Soil containing seed can be spread on vehicles/machinery

Status

Hawthorn is not listed as a noxious weed in the NSW section of the Molonglo Catchment however it is an important species for control due to its invasive nature.

In the ACT, hawthorn is a class 3 and 4 Pest Plant which must be contained and whose supply is prohibited.

Look-alikes

All **pyracantha** species, especially **scarlet firethorn** (*Pyracantha coccinea*) are similar introduced species that have escaped from gardens and become weeds in some areas of Australia. Hawthorn and pyracantha have similar berries and flowers however hawthorn can be differentiated by its lobed leaves.



Lynton Bond

Weed: firethorn thorns and leaves

Control methods

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

Seedlings and small bushes can be hand pulled.

For larger plants, chemicals can be applied using the 'drill and fill' or 'cut and paint' methods. Drill and fill involves drilling into the trunk of the tree and immediately injecting the chemical into the hole. This method is useful as the tree remains in place providing some habitat until replacement species have grown. Cut and paint involves cutting the tree down at the base of the trunk and immediately applying the chemicals to the cut stump. This method allows complete removal of the plant which may have been restricting access and allows sunlight to reach replacement plantings. The method you use should relate to the situation at hand.

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

Avoid growing this plant in your garden. Ask you local nursery to suggest an alternative.