

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster glaucophyllus Var. *serotinus*

Family

Rosaceae (rose)

Where is it originally from?

China and Himalayas

What does it look like?

Spreading evergreen shrub or small tree (<2-5 m) with erect young stems covered in downy hairs when young but becoming hairless and dark reddish-purple when mature, and often covered in sooty mould. Pale blue-green leaves (30-70 x 15-35 mm) mostly along young shoots are dull and hairless above with pale downy hairs below when young but become hairless. Clusters of 15-60 small white flowers (Oct-Jan) followed by scarlet or orange berries (4-7 mm diameter, Feb-Aug).

Are there any similar species?

Cotoneaster franchetii, *C. simonsii*, *C. lacteus*, *C. harrovianus*, and *C. parneyi* are similar.

Why is it weedy?

Produces large amounts of highly viable seed, matures quickly, very long-lived, and forms dense (often pure) stands, outcompeting native shrub species in a wide range of habitats. Extremely tolerant of damp and drought conditions, hot and cold temperatures, salt, range of soils and semi-shade tolerant.

How does it spread?

Birds distribute seeds widely. Sources of infestations include hedges, roadsides, gardens, quarries, wasteland, and exotic plantations.

What damage does it do?

Overtops and replaces shrub species and becomes the sole understorey or terminal shrub species. Completely prevents establishment of all other species except weedy vines.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Most coastline habitats, inshore islands, dry forest and shrubland, forest margins, dry gullies, bluffs, rocky sites, slips, and riverbeds.

What can I do to get rid of it?

Plan to control whole areas to minimise reseeding by birds.

1. Physical removal - Pull or dig seedlings or small plants (all year round).
2. Cut and paste - Cut the stem/trunk as close to the ground as possible and cover the entire stump with herbicide as soon as possible after cutting. Apply metsulfuron gel (10g/L strength) or picloram gel (43g/L strength) to the entire cut stem.
3. Basal spray - spray stems up to 20cm diameter with X-Tree Basal. Apply from the ground to a height of 6 times the diameter of the plant, ensure the base is thoroughly covered at ground level.
4. Foliar spray (Summer to Autumn before leaves become brittle)
Apply Metsulfuron herbicide (600g/kg active ingredient) (Knapsack 0.5g/L, or Gun and hose 20-35g/L) plus organosilicone penetrant (3ml/L) to thoroughly wet all parts of plant. Note: Metsulfuron overspray will kill other (desirable) broadleaf plants and has residual activity in the soil which aids in killing below ground parts
OR Apply Triclopyr herbicide (600g/L active ingredient) at 6ml/L plus organosilicone penetrant (1ml/L) to thoroughly wet all parts of plant. Note: Overspray will kill other (desirable) broadleaf plants. Metsulfuron has residual activity in the soil which may leach through soil and kill other plants. Do not use under and around other (desirable) broadleaf plants.



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Photo: Trevor James



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CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and directions for the purchase, use and storage of the product, are followed and adhered to.

What can I do to stop it coming back?

Stumps resprout, often even after swabbing. Replant bared areas with dense groundcover or shrubs to prevent seedling regrowth.



Photo: Trevor James