

Willow-leaved hakea

Hakea salicifolia

Family

Proteaceae (protea)

Also known as

Hakea saligna

Where is it originally from?

Australia

What does it look like?

Large erect shrub or small tree (<5 m) that isn't prickly. Leathery, flattened and willow-like leaves (60-110 x 5-15 mm) have either little or no stem. Clusters of 5-20 tiny white flowers (Aug-Nov) are followed by woody, oval seed capsules (20-27 x 13-16 mm) with warty surfaces and containing winged black seeds (15-20 x 5-7 mm).

Are there any similar species?

Only flat-leaved, non-prickly hakea species wild in New Zealand. Similar to *Acacia longifolia*.

Why is it weedy?

Tolerant of fire, damage (not grazed), damp to severe drought, moderate shade, poor soils, high to cool temperatures. Long-lived, dominates other species in poor soils.

How does it spread?

Seed encouraged by fire. Water and soil movement, livestock, dumped vegetation. Hedges, waste places, exotic plantations.

What damage does it do?

Dominates low shrubland and regenerating forest in very low fertility, poor soil habitats. Keeps sites dry, adds to fire risk, causes succession to pampas and grasses. Contributes to local extinction of rare native fern, orchid and shrub species.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Gumlands, shrubland, short tussockland, bare land, fernland, disturbed forest, especially low-humus and burnt sites.

What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Physical removal - Hand pull small plants, or dig out entire plant including roots (all year round).
2. Cut and paste (all year round) - 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 either metsulfuron gel (10g/l strength) OR picloram gel (43g/l strength) to the entire cut stem.
3. Basal spray stems up to 20cm diameter with X-Tree Basal. Ensure the base is thoroughly covered at ground level.
4. Foliar spray - Apply Glyphosate (360 g/L active ingredient) herbicide (20ml/L) plus organosilicone penetrant (2ml/L) to cover entire plant
Note: Non selective. Avoid overspray onto desirable plants OR Apply Metsulfuron herbicide (600g/kg active ingredient) (Knapsack 0.5g/L, or Gun and hose 20-35g/100L) 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.

Tip Can be left in place for natural succession (10-30 years): can be accelerated by felling plants in sites of dense native vegetation, allowing native species to overtop Hakea. Best in winter to maximise regeneration and minimise fire risk.
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.



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Photo: Trevor James



Photo: Trevor James



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What can I do to stop it coming back?

Avoid fire at all times, implement fire protection strategy. Most sites can be left to regenerate to native species provided fire can be permanently avoided.