

Why are plants with berries considered bad?

Plants with berries, such as cotoneaster, asparagus fern, African olive, cestrum, privet and African blackthorn which are not native to Australia can be a problem for gardeners and our bushland.

Plants with berries attract larger birds, such as ravens and noisy miners, to your garden as they enjoy eating the berries.

Larger birds have a wide range and often fly into native bushland and other gardens after feeding.



While birds fly and perch they excrete nutrient rich packages containing seed from the berries that they have eaten and sometimes regurgitate them complete with the skin of the fruit intact.



Many of these seeds will germinate and grow into plants which produce more berries and more plants. Plants which are not native to bushland are known as weeds, especially when they grow too well.

Plants that produce berries often take over large areas of bushland and out-compete the native plants. If we remove these plants from our gardens we can reduce their impact on bushland and gardens.

For more photos and information about these weedy plants and weed control techniques please visit:

www.iewf.org - Web Weed Lookup

or email info@iewf.org

Or contact your local Council.

When using herbicide always read and follow manufacturers' instructions.

If a plant continues to grow after being treated with herbicide the plant may need to be treated again.

Berries could be put into your green rubbish bin. If you put them in any other bin they should be sealed in a plastic bag first. Don't leave the berries on the ground or on weed piles as they could germinate.

To find out about replacing these plants with native plants please see

www.habitatnetwork.org

or email info@iewf.org

Thank you to Roberta Johnston, Pamela Ward and Bev Debrincat for photos.



www.iewf.org



Berry berry bad plants



Right - *Ochna serrulata*

Mickey Mouse plant - native of South Africa

Shrub to 2 metres, with yellow flowers and green then black berries. The bark has a spotted appearance.

This is a difficult plant to kill - scrape the bark along the stem in a few places to expose the layer below and immediately apply undiluted herbicide, such as Glyphosate.



**Berry berry bad plants
invasive weeds**



Left - *Olea europaea subsp cuspidata*

African olive

Multi-stemmed, evergreen tree which grows to 10 metres tall. Leaves are a shiny grey-green colour with the under surface being green or yellowish brown. Fruit is not edible for humans.

Cut tree to low stump and apply undiluted herbicide, such as Glyphosate, to entire stump immediately after cutting.

Right - *Ligustrum lucidum* and *Ligustrum sinense*

Privet - native of Asia

Both are evergreen shrubs or small trees with white flowers and fruit prolifically. They have small spots on the bark and dark green shiny leaves.

Cut to low stump and apply undiluted herbicide, such as Glyphosate, to outer edge of stump immediately after cutting.



Left - *Lycium ferocissimum*

African boxthorn

An erect shrub with many rigid branches growing up to 4 metres high and about

3 metres across. The branches are leafy and often end in a spine.

Cut tree to low stump and apply undiluted herbicide, such as Glyphosate, to entire stump immediately after cutting.

Right - *Cestrum parqui*

Green cestrum - native of Central and South America

Large woody shrub with yellow flowers. Has distinctive smell when cut.

This is a difficult plant to kill like Ochna - scrape the bark to expose the layer below and immediately apply undiluted herbicide, such as Glyphosate.



Lower left - *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*

Cotoneaster - Native of China

Tall shrub to small tree, 1.5 to 4 metres tall.

Leaves are oval in shape, 3 to 8 cm long, dark green above, lower surface is covered with soft white hairs.

Right - *Asparagus aethiopicus*

Asparagus fern - native of South Africa

A dense scrambling plant with spines along the stems.

To remove cut back stems. Then carefully use a knife to cut out the central crown or growth point. Place this with berries in your green bin or in a plastic bag in the garbage bin.



Clusters of tiny white flowers (about 8 mm across and with 5 petals) appear in Spring to Summer on hairy stems.

Cut to low stump and apply undiluted herbicide, such as Glyphosate, to outer edge of stump immediately after cutting.