African Olive

Regional Priority Weed

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, all landholders have a "General Biosecurity Duty" to manage any "Biosecurity Risk" posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds. These weeds can impact on human health, the economy, the liveability of our City and the environment. Impacts can include allergies and other health issues, costs of control, loss of tourism value, degradation of natural landscapes, parks and recreation facilities, reduction of useful agricultural land and loss of primary production, loss of biodiversity and water quality.

MANDATORY OUTCOME

The plant should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant.

Scientific name

Olea europaea ssp.cuspidata

(Family: Oleaceae)

Description

Habit: An evergreen tree usually growing to heights and widths of 5 m to 10 m. Bark is pale to dark grey developing a rough texture with age.

Leaves: The upper surface of the leaves is glossy grey-green and the underside is silver, green to brown. Leaves have a hooked tip.

Flowers: White flowers appear in spring on branchlets at the leaf axils (where leaves join the stem).

Fruit: Fruit is oval shaped, initially green, maturing over autumn – winter to purple-black. African Olive produces thousands of seeds.

Photo source: P. Cuneo, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

Photo source: M Louis

Fact Sheet

Blue Mountains City Council - Bushland Operations Team |http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds| Phone: 4780 5000

WEEDS ARE EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

African Olive **Regional Priority Weed**

Dispersal

Seed is spread by birds and foxes.

Impacts

African Olives aggressively invade cleared land, reducing the value and productivity of properties. They provide poor habitat for native animals and good habitat for feral birds such as Indian Mynas. If not controlled the plant will take over large areas forming huge, dense monocultures of African Olive.

Current distribution

Mid to Lower Mountains

Control

- Seedlings can be hand pulled if all the roots can be removed. Beds of dense seedlings can be sprayed.
- More established plants will need to be cut and painted with herbicide.
- For larger plants, inject herbicide into the stem. The wood of African Olives is very hard, so ensure drilling or chiselling gets well into the stem.

Because the berries are bird spread, it is best to treat plants before they fruit. If you can't, bag the fruit and treat in hot compost (to kill the seeds). Other parts of the plant can be picked up and spread out off the ground to dry and break down.

Hand Removal

Cut and Paint

Stem Inject

Plant this instead

Local species of Grevilleas, Banksias and Hakeas.

Control illustrations by Virginia Bear.

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blue mountains City Council

NEW SOUTH WALES
WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

For more information on weed identification, control methods, herbicide use and weed contractors see:
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BLUE MOUNTAINS - NO PLACE FOR WEEDS

Fact Sheet