

# Grey Sallow

## NSW State 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.

### A WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The plant must be eradicated from the land and be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed; and the land must be kept free of the plant.

#### Scientific name

*Salix cinerea*

(Family: Salicaceae)

#### Description

**Habit:** A multi-stemmed, deciduous tree about 8 m to 12 m. Bark is smooth at first, becoming fissured with age. The longitudinal ridges under the bark, are a distinguishing feature. (You may need to peel bark to see the ridges.)

**Leaves:** Leaves are oval shaped, with a short, pointed tip. Leaves emerge after the catkins or flowerheads.

**Flowers:** Flowerheads or ‘catkins’ are produced in mid-spring. The catkins on male trees are yellowish with pollen. The female catkins are grey-green.

**Fruit:** ‘Fluff’ from female trees, in late spring, contains thousands of tiny seeds.



Photo source: M. Louis



Photo source: BMCC Bushcare

## Dispersal

Seeds travel easily on wind and water for many kilometres. Grey Sallow also spreads by fragments of stems or twigs breaking off and growing new shoots in moist situations.

## Impacts

Willows grow rapidly and destroy natural ecosystems such as streams and swamps. They hold back sediment in creeks, creating huge silt beds that clog waterways and become sites for other weeds. Willows take oxygen out of the stream.

## Current distribution

Whole of Blue Mountains Local Government Area, but mainly Linden to Mt Victoria.

## Control

Stem injection is an effective treatment. This must be done to all trunks and stems and as close to the ground as possible. Do not leave cut material lying on the ground as Grey Sallow can regrow from small amounts of stem.



Stem Inject



Cut and Paint

## Plant this instead

Native creekline vegetation such as Black Wattle (*Callicoma serratifolia*), and native sedges such as Saw Sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*).

Control illustrations by Virginia Bear.



NEW SOUTH WALES  
WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

For more information on weed identification, control methods, herbicide use and weed contractors see:  
Blue Mountains City Council - Bushland Operations Team | <http://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds> | Phone: 4780 5000

**BLUE MOUNTAINS - NO PLACE FOR WEEDS**