

Himalayan honeysuckle

Leycesteria formosa

What does it look like?

Himalayan honeysuckle is a shrub that grows up to 2m tall (it is not a vine, like Japanese honeysuckle). It has straight, hollow stems and heart-shaped leaves. From December to May, drooping spikes of white and reddish-purple flowers grow from the tips of the branches; these are followed by juicy, dark brownish-purple or red berries.

Himalayan honeysuckle is a plant of coastal and lowland habitats, favouring damp conditions such as beside streams and in riverbeds. It is also found within native and plantation forests and shrublands, where it colonises clearings and canopy gaps.

Why is it a problem?

Himalayan honeysuckle grows rapidly to produce dense thickets that replace and exclude other species. It prefers sunny sites but can tolerate shade, frost, physical damage, damp, and most soils. However, it is not long-lived. After flowering, Himalayan honeysuckle produces numerous berries that contain high numbers of seeds.



Control methods

Physical control

- Dig out small clumps in early spring before seed is set. Leave plants on site to dry and rot down.

Herbicide control

- Cut and stump paint 1g metsulfuron or 200mL glyphosate per 1L water.
- Spray with 4g metsulfuron (600g/kg) or 100mL glyphosate (360g/l) or 100mL Touchdown per 10L water.
- Gun and hose 20g metsulfuron or 1L glyphosate or 1: touchdown per 100L water.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

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Related links

Weedbusters <http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/leycesteria-formosa/59/>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3405

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Leycesteria-formosa.html>

Management programme

Organisms of interest

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=218>