

Mayten tree, Chilean mayten, Mayten

Maytenus boaria

What does it look like?

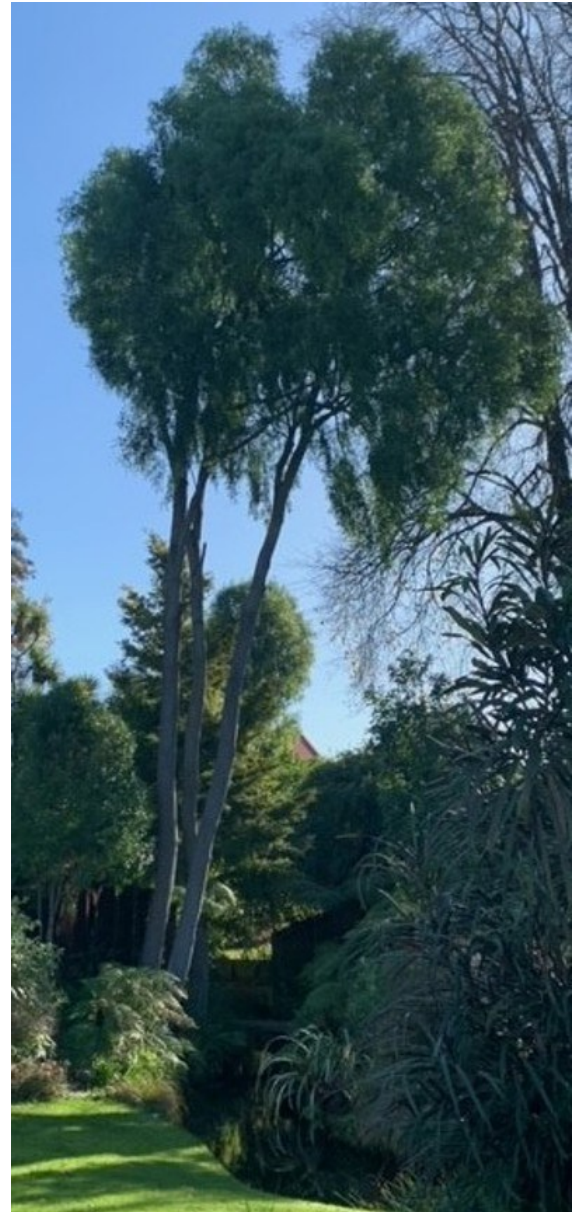
Maytenus boaria is a tree that can grow up to 20 m. The trunk is straight and can have a diameter of 80 cm. The leaves are small, alternate, elliptical, fine serrate margins, light green colour, about 2.5 and 5 cm long. The flowers are small; male flowers are brownish yellow and female are green with purple lines. Its fruit is a yellow bivalve capsule, which contains one or two seeds, and is covered by a red-coloured membrane.

Maytenus boaria is an evergreen, dioecious tree of the family Celastraceae, native from Chile and Argentina in South America. It was introduced to New Zealand in 1881 and after being sold commercially in the 1920s it is now naturalised in several areas.

It has been banned in New Zealand after it was listed as invasive species. It is now illegal under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, distribute or sell this plant - either casually or through nurseries.

Why is it a problem?

Mayten is spread by aggressive root suckers that can form dense thickets more than 10m away from parent tree, and seed.



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Control methods

Always treat standing plants, do not cut down as this may stimulate new growth. Do allow to fully die before felling. Encourage natural regeneration of native plants or replanted areas where possible after 2-3 treatments to establish dense ground cover to minimise reinvasion.

Physical control - dig out seedlings, dispose of ALL plant parts responsibly.

Chemical control - Herbicide products containing fluroxypir, picloram, or glyphosate with penetrant applied as a foliar spray, drill or fill, or cut & paste stumps. Trees and suckers need to be cut or mowed and sprayed with Starane® (60 mL per 10 litres). Regular checking and control will be required for years.

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

Plants with seed must be buried deeply, burnt, or disposed of at a refuse transfer station. Follow up at six-monthly intervals to complete eradication.

Related links

Chilean Mayten - A ticking timebomb <https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/newsletters/biological-control-of-weeds/issue-80/chilean-mayten-a-ticking-time-bomb>

Summary of rules

No person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any Mayten tree, Chilean mayten, Mayten.

For full rules please see Sections 52 and 53 of the [Biosecurity Act 1993](#).

Management programme

National Pest Plant Accord