

# Evergreen buckthorn

## *Rhamnus alaternus*

### What does it look like?

Evergreen buckthorn is a shrub or tree that can grow to 5m tall, but in exposed sites it may become a stunted shrub less than 1m tall. Young shoots are angular, hairy, usually purple, and the leaves are oval-shaped, slightly toothed, glossy and leathery. Flowers (May-November) are small, green, petal-less and fragrant, and are followed by glossy dark-red to black berries (5-7mm long) from December to January.

### Why is it a problem?

Evergreen buckthorn is quick growing, long-lived, forms dense stands and produces many viable, long-lived and well dispersed seeds. Tolerant to salt, wind, poor soils, frost and heat, damage and grazing, and seedlings also tolerate deep shade. Grows quickly when a light gap appears. It forms dense stands and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. Acts as a low shrub on windswept rocky shores or understorey shrub in tall canopy. Most likely to invade coastal and other shrublands, cliffs, forest margins, inshore and offshore islands, and rocky lands.



### Control Methods

#### Physical control

Hand pull or dig out small plants (all year round). Leave on site to rot down.

#### Herbicide control

Cut stems, year round, and swab with herbicide. Effective options:

Triclopyr (600g/L active ingredient) at 100ml/L of water, or,

Picloram/triclopyr herbicide (picloram 100g/L and triclopyr 300g/L active ingredient) at 100ml/L of water, or,

Glyphosate (360g/L active ingredient) at 250ml/L of water, or,

Metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg active ingredient) at 10g/L of water and with penetrant added at the label rate.  
Or,

Make 1 cut every 50 mm around the trunk, year round, and apply 10ml of undiluted triclopyr (600g/L active ingredient), or, 10ml of undiluted picloram/triclopyr herbicide (picloram 100g/L and triclopyr 300g/L active ingredient), per cut. Or,

Spray from spring to summer with triclopyr (600g/L active ingredient) at 2ml/L of water and with penetrant added at the label rate.

Bared sites are reinfested by the seed bank. Stumps resprout. Follow up sites 6 monthly until eradicated before replanting.

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

Ministry for Primary Industries <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/861/Evergreen-buckthorn>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.aspx?ID=2907](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2907)

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Rhamnus-alaternus.html>

Unwanted Organisms Register [https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor-cgi/uor.pl/show?species\\_id=36692](https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor-cgi/uor.pl/show?species_id=36692)

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/evergreen-buckthorn/>

## Rules

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

The National Pest Plant Accord is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment.