

# Rice paper plant

## *Tetrapanax papyrifer*

### What does it look like?

An evergreen, rounded shrub or small tree (<8 m tall). Stems are densely covered in hairs when young, becoming more or less hairless with prominent leaf scars when older. Leaves are large and rounded heart-shaped, with toothed margins and (3-12) deep lobes (indented 1/3-2/3 of leaf radius). They are densely hairy on both surfaces when young, becoming more or less hairless above when mature, and are held on long leaf stalks (10-50 cm). Tiny white flowers (Autumn) are held in white, woolly, ball-like clusters on a large, branched stem that extends beyond the foliage, and are followed by clusters of spherical black berries (3 mm diameter).

Spreads by suckers up to 2 m long.



### Why is it a problem?

Tolerates part shade. Vigorous growth rate. Grows into thickets by suckering. Can shade out native plants. Contact with foliage can cause skin rash. Likely to invade disturbed forest and shrubland, forest margins, stream banks, urban areas, roadsides and wastelands.



### Control Methods

#### Physical control

Dig out isolated plants or small patches, and remove root system when soil soft.

Monitor the site and treat any regrowth. Plant a cover of native trees or shrubs to produce shade.

### Related Links

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/rice-paper-plant/>