

Barberry

Berberidaceae - Berberis glaucocarpa



What does it look like?

Barberry is an evergreen yellowish-grey barked tree (in warmer climates) that grows up to 7m in height.

Spines on stems are tough and woody, from singular to three (to 23mm long). Leaves are variably-shaped (25-75 x 10-25mm), leathery textured, often purple-tinged, usually spiny-serrate and often turn reddish in autumn.

Barberry produces clusters (up to 6cm long) of smelly yellow flowers (5-7mm diameter) and are followed by oval, reddish-black berries (7-12mm) with a dusty white look to them and dark red juice.

Known to grow around farm hedges, roadsides, old homesteads, and plantation forest are seed sources.

Most commonly spotted: flowers from October to November, berries occur from March to May.

Why is it a problem?

A highly invasive plant that forms thick stands in open scrub to forests. Very tolerant of soil and climate conditions, produces long-lived, well-dispersed seeds that spread mainly from birds, occasionally spread by soil and water movement. Tough to control once established due to the species robustness and once spread can have negative effects on production land. Tolerates hot to cool temperatures, damp to dry conditions, high wind, salt, little shade, damage (not grazed) and many soil types. It is known to replace native species.

Control methods

Cut stumps at base of tree and follow up 6 monthly.

Plants with seed must be buried deeply, burnt, or disposed of at a refuse transfer station.

Follow up at 6 monthly intervals to complete eradication.

For agrichemical control for refer to: [Barberry • Weedbusters](#)

More information

Similar Species: European barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) has red berries. Darwin's barberry (*B. darwinii*) is similar but has bright orange flowers. There are no known native plant species with a similar appearance with the East Coast/Tairāwhiti Region.

Management programme

- Sustained Control
- National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)

Rules

- Council will work with landowner/occupier, including developing agreements for the effective management of this pest to protect the values of specific sites.

For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 35, under Related Links.

- All occupiers shall on a complaints basis, and unless otherwise agreed between the neighbours and Council staff, destroy this pest plant on their land within 50m of a boundary with an adjacent property within 21 calendar days of being notified of the presence of the pest, where the adjacent land occupier is controlling these pests on their land.