

PRIVET

Ligustrum lucidum
Ligustrum sinense

Introduction

Two problem species of Privet are currently found in the Bay of Plenty. These are Tree Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and Chinese Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Privet is a highly invasive plant pest. Both species rapidly colonise waste areas or stands of trees and will displace other plants in regenerating native communities.

The pollen and scent from privet may also contribute to allergies such as hay fever and asthma although this has not been clinically proven.

PLANT PEST STATUS

PRIVET IS A HIGH RISK PLANT PEST IN THE BAY OF PLENTY REGION (ENVIRONMENT B-O-P'S REGIONAL PLANT PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY).

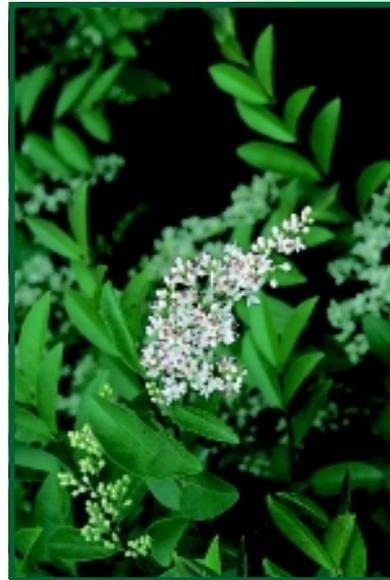
OCCUPIERS OF LAND ARE NOT REQUIRED TO CONTROL PRIVET BUT ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION.

Origin

Both Tree Privet and Chinese Privet are native to China. They were introduced to New Zealand as ornamental and hedging plants.



*Tree privet
flower and leaf*



*Chinese privet
flower and leaf*

Both species were first recorded in the wild in the 1950s.

Description

Privet is tolerant of shade and drought, as well as cold or wet conditions. The leaves and black berries of both species are poisonous.

Tree Privet is a small to large tree. It has dark green, glossy leaves. The small, cream-coloured flowers are strongly scented. Flowering occurs from January to March.

Chinese Privet is a small evergreen tree. Its leaves are small and a dull green colour and the small white flowers are strongly scented. Flowering occurs from September to December.



Chinese privet invading pastoral land

Invasion

Both privet species spread in two main ways:

- by birds which eat the berries and distribute the seeds in their droppings.
- by humans who deliberately plant privet and cause new infestations to occur.

Environment B·O·P Plant Pest Officers are available to advise on control methods suitable to each particular situation.

Mechanical/Manual Control

Privet can be controlled by pulling or digging out seedlings. Dispose of the plant material by composting or mulching it, providing it is removed before seeds ripen.

Herbicide Control

Before using herbicides, be aware of any horticultural activity in the local district and apply herbicide sprays with caution. Operators are liable for damage arising from spray drift.

For overall spray application, the following herbicides are suitable:

Glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®)

<i>Knapsack</i>	100 ml per 10 litres of water
<i>Handgun</i>	1 litre per 100 litres of water

NB: The addition of Pulse® penetrant at a rate of 100 ml per 100 litres of water is recommended to improve herbicide uptake.

Escort®

<i>Knapsack</i>	5g per 10 litres of water
<i>Handgun</i>	20g per 100 litres of water

NB: The addition of Pulse®, Boost® or Freeway at 100ml per 100 litres of water will improve herbicide uptake.

Tordon® Brushkiller

<i>Knapsack</i>	100ml per 10 litres of water
<i>Handgun</i>	1 litre per 100 litres of water

Stem cut and inject

This method is suitable for privet plants with a stem diameter of 50mm or more. Ring bark the base of the stem with downward axe/machete strokes, cutting into the sap wood. Apply herbicide to the point of runoff into each downward cut immediately after cuts have been made.

Suitable herbicides and dilution rates for cut and inject treatment are:

Glyphosate	(e.g. Roundup®) Use neat (i.e. undiluted)
Escort®	20g (+10ml Pulse® penetrant) per litre of water

Stump treatment

Cut plant off about 50mm above ground level. Apply herbicide mixtures to top *and sides* of the stump. Pulse® penetrant will aid uptake of the herbicide. Suitable herbicides and dilution rates for stump treatment of Privet are:

Glyphosate	2 litres (+ 10ml Pulse®) per 10 litres of water
Escort®	5g (+10ml Pulse®) per 10 litres of water

NB: Herbicide must be applied immediately after stumps have been cut.

Herbicide is most effective when applied during Privet's active growing season – spring or autumn in fine weather. If using Escort®, avoid use over or nearby desirable plants, or in areas where their roots may extend.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide READ THE LABEL thoroughly and follow all instructions and safety requirements.

Further Information

For further information contact a local Environment B·O·P animal pest officer on freephone 0800 ENVBOP (368 267)

Environment B·O·P offices located at:

6 Rata Street	Mt Maunganui
1125 Arawa Street	Rotorua
5 Quay Street	Whakatane
25 Church Street	Opotiki

Email: info@envbop.govt.nz

Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Environment B·O·P does not accept liability for any damages that may arise from use of chemicals at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

This fact sheet was prepared by Wendy Baker

Photographs by Walter Stahel

Environment B·O·P
P O Box 364
WHAKATANE