

## Darwin's barberry (*Berberis darwinii*)



Shrub



*Berries have a white bloom on the surface*



*Fully mature fruit*

Darwin's barberry is a spiny, evergreen, semi-deciduous shrub that grows up to about 4 m high. It is found in forest and bush margins, and sometimes in pasture and wasteland. The plant tolerates a wide range of soil and climatic conditions.

The shrub is identifiable by its glossy, dark-green leaves, up to 3 cm long, with spiny edges and by the group of 5 sharp spines at the base of each leaf. The small yellow-orange flowers form attractive clusters in late winter through to late summer. The flowers are followed by small purplish-black berries that have a white bloom on the surface. The berries are eaten by birds that disperse the seed.

Small plants can be dug out or larger ones bulldozed. Bushes can be treated with herbicide or bushes can be cut off and the stumps treated with herbicide.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**