

Evergreen buckthorn (*Rhamnus alaternus*)



Leaves appear glossy and leathery

Evergreen buckthorn is an evergreen shrub that can grow to 5 m tall but is often much smaller in exposed sites. It grows around forest margins and in plantations and can form dense stands, especially in northern areas, where it can interfere with the regeneration of pohutakawa.

The shrub's shoots are hairy and often purple when young, turning brown with thick and furrowed bark when mature. The leaves are leathery, oval and glossy, sometimes with serrated or toothed edges. Small green fragrant flowers appear from May to November, followed by berry-like fruit that are glossy dark red before turning black. The berries are 5-7mm long and are eaten by birds that disperse the seeds.

Seedlings or small plants should be uprooted. Larger bushes can be sprayed with herbicide. Alternatively the bushes should be cut off at or near ground level and the freshly cut stump treated with herbicide.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.