

Monkey apple (*Acmena smithii*)



Berry-like fruit that are white or pink-mauve

Monkey apple is a long-lived tree, 6-18 m tall. It grows in forest and damp shrub-lands and has been commonly planted for shelter and as an ornamental tree in the warmer parts of New Zealand.

Its glossy oval leaves, growing in opposite pairs, release an aromatic fragrance when crushed. Its whitish flowers bloom from October to January, followed by berry-like fruit that are white or pink-mauve.

Kereru (NZ pigeon) disperse monkey apple seeds, and therefore introduce this plant into nearby native forest. Seedlings can be pulled or dug out and mulched. Larger trees can be sprayed with herbicide or holes or cuts made in the trunk and the holes filled with herbicide. Cut stumps should be treated with herbicide to prevent re-growth.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.