

Tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*)



Clusters of small, white fragrant flowers

Tree privet is a small to medium evergreen shrub or tree up to 12 m in height. Originally planted as a domestic hedge, the tree is now widespread in farm hedges, on roadsides, in shrub-lands and forests, and on vacant land.

Largest of the privets in New Zealand, it has oval, glossy leaves in opposite pairs. Between November and March it produces long pyramidal clusters of small, white fragrant flowers, followed by bluish or purple-black, berry-like fruit.

Birds are capable of transporting seeds long distances.

Seedlings should be pulled or dug out. Larger plants can be sawn off close to ground level and the cut stump painted with herbicide or holes drilled in the trunk and filled with herbicide.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.