

Barberry (*Berberis glaucocarpa*)



Shrub



Serrated leaves often tinged with purple

Barberry is an evergreen or semi-deciduous shrub, to 7 m tall. It tolerates a wide range of soil and climatic conditions and the seedlings are shade tolerant. Barberry reduces grazing area and can replace pasture, and is very invasive in partly open scrub and forest. It is sometimes used as a hedge plant.

Barberry has spines on the stems, singly or in threes. The oval leaves are up to 7.5 cm long, varying in shape, size and presence of serrations. The leaves are often tinged with purple. In summer it produces yellow flowers in hanging racemes, followed in autumn by black fruit with a white waxy coating. The seeds are spread mainly by birds.

Cutting and stump treating may control barberry or large stands may be sprayed with herbicide. Proper land management and grazing can also prevent plants from establishing.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.