

Japanese spindle tree (*Eponymous japonica*)



Leaves are often variegated

An evergreen shrub up to 7m tall with smooth green twigs, Japanese spindle tree is a pest of waste spaces, shrubland, forest margins and disturbed forest. It has commonly been sold in several variegated forms, however, these forms readily revert to green.

Japanese spindle tree has oval and glossy leaves (up to 7 cm long), that are often variegated, with rounded teeth along the edges. Small green flowers are produced in bunches. The fruit is a deep pink, four-celled capsule that opens to expose bright orange fruit. Seed is mainly spread by birds, but the plant can also establish as a garden escape.

Small plants may be grubbed out. Cut down larger trees and treat the stump with herbicide.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.