



Ligustrum lucidum LARGE LEAF PRIVET

SEPTEMBER 2008

There are two forms of privet located right along the coast of New South Wales. They are the Large Leaf and Small Leaf Privet.

DESCRIPTION

Its dark green broad leaves distinguish the Large Leaf Privet from its close relative. Leaves are hairless, shiny and up to 12cm long, often wavy in shape towards the edges. A small to medium size tree, it can grow to around 15 metres high. White flower clusters are produced in summer after the flowering of its relative, the small leaf variety. Its succulent berries are purple/black in colour, with two seeds per berry. Fruit is borne in dense drooping clusters throughout winter.

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The plant is able to germinate easily and grow prolifically, giving it the capability to suppress and shade other plants living in the understorey. The complex and tenacious root system chokes the soil reducing the accessibility of water and nutrients for competing native species.

When the roots or stems are damaged or cut, suckering occurs giving the plant the ability to increase its size and density.

Large Leaf Privet also triggers reactions in people who suffer allergies.

HABITAT

Large Leaf Privet has the ability to survive in most environments and soils. However maximum growth occurs in moisture and nutrient rich soils. It is found abundantly along gullies, watercourses, wastelands, creek lines and banks in urban areas.



Fruit and leaves of Large Leaf Privet.
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

Originating in Asia, the Large Leaf Privet plant was a popular ornamental as a hedgerow and as a windbreak. The species arrived in Australia through nursery stock. The feeding of birds on the succulent berries supported further dispersion into bushland areas. Currawongs are known to feed readily on the berries of the Large Leaf Privet.

DECLARATION

Large Leaf Privet is considered an environmental weed in Sutherland Shire. However, it is still important that environmental weeds be destroyed, as they can also affect human health, or can be invasive in the natural environment killing the native flora and reducing the natural biodiversity. Native animals may also be affected due to the loss of their natural habitat.

CONTROL

Large Leaf Privet is not easily eradicated, as it is tolerant of heavy shade, ringbarking and burning. Privet has the ability to re-grow through suckering when the stems or roots are cut. Eradication of small plants can be achieved by digging out the whole plant. Alternatively the plants can be treated with the Scrape and Paint method using undiluted Glyphosate. Wait for plant to defoliate and remove above ground parts.



Small to medium size tree.
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

For further information contact
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