

WEED FILE:

BUDDLEIA



DESCRIPTION

Buddleia : *Buddleia davidii*

Buddleia is another of those pretty and exotic garden plants that have escaped to become a serious pest weed in large parts of NZ. It's originally from China.

It's a perennial shrub growing quite quickly up to about 3 metres tall. It forms dense thickets once established.

It flowers in summer, producing slender cone-shaped clusters up to 30cm long of purple to mauve flowers that are individually about 5mm in diameter. The flowers are orange inside and are densely packed on the cluster.

Flowering is followed by production of cylindrical seed capsules up to 10mm long. The seeds are spread by water, wind and dumped vegetation.

Leaves are slender and willow shaped, and up to 20cm long by 8cm wide.

They have a pointed tip, and are finely toothed. The leaves are green and hairless on top, and white-grey beneath with a hairy covering.

Buddleia is a multi-stemmed plant. Young shoots on the stems are bluntly angled off the main stem and clad in soft woolly hairs that are easily rubbed off.

The preferred habitat is roadsides, forests (including forestry blocks), riverbeds and riverbanks, and waste areas. It establishes quickly and is extremely tolerant of soil types, temperature range, moisture range and light conditions. Dense stands of buddleia can block waterways and alter water flow, resulting in silting and flooding.

Distribution is NZ-wide, and it is especially common in the North Island and upper half of the South Island. In

some regions, buddleia is subject to Pest Plant Management Strategies.

PHYSICAL CONTROL

Small plants can be dug out by hand, but once buddleia reaches maturity it's rarely a practical, nor tolerable, proposition to dig it out.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

Stump Cutting

Cut stems low to the ground with a horizontal cut. Apply 1 part **Glyphosate 360** in 3 parts water (or 1 part **Granny** in 5 parts water) direct to the fresh cut surface.

Stem Drilling

In large specimens, drill downward-angled holes into the sapwood low on the stems and fill with **Glyphosate** or **Granny** mixed as above, or with **GrassMate** undiluted.

The same mixtures can be applied to angled cuts made with axe or machete into the sapwood, low on the stems, ensuring that the plant is not totally ringbarked.

Spraying (best results Feb – Apr)

- **Glyphosate 360** at 100ml/10L water, or **Granny** at 45g/10L water. In both cases add **SprayWetter** at 10ml/10L water.
- **GrassMate** at 90ml/15L water by knapsack, or 250ml/100L water by handgun. Add **SprayWetter** at 10ml/10L water.
- **MSF600** at 5g/10L water, plus **SprayWetter** at 10ml/10L water.

Buddleia will re-establish itself readily from the seed bank in the soil. Permanent control by any method will need to be followed-up twice a year for several years to achieve lasting success.

