

WEED FILE:

HAWTHORN



Hawthorn – *Crataegus monogyna*

DESCRIPTION

Hawthorn was originally imported from Europe and used in NZ as a very popular hedge plant. As is usually the case with imports, hawthorn did so well in its adopted land that it became a problem invader.

It's a deciduous shrub or tree, and can reach a height of 10 metres. It has many branches & stems, coloured red/brown when young and silver grey when mature. The branches are heavily adorned with very sharp thorns (spines) to 12mm in length.

Leaves are hairless and triangular, about 50mm x 45mm across, and have deep lobes. The hawthorn leaf is often attacked by slugs, and such damage is very commonly seen on hawthorn plants in NZ.

Flowers are usually white, occasionally pink, with 5 petals, and up to 15mm diameter individually. They grow in clusters containing 6-12 flowers, appearing October to November.

The fruit is bright red and shiny; looking somewhat like a cherry in shape and size, but not so dark red as a cherry. The fruit is eaten, and the stone inside subsequently spread, by birds. Fruit appears in late summer and early autumn.

Seen in all parts of NZ, hawthorn prefers roadsides, disturbed sites of old hedges and fences, deserted sites, burnt land, shrubland and forest margins, tussockland and cliffs.

Hawthorn is very tolerant of extreme and marginal conditions; dry or wet, hot or cool, shade, high wind, salt environments, and virtually all soil types.



MANUAL CONTROL

You can dig out smaller hawthorn at any time of year. The removed plants may be stacked and left to rot down on site.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

Non-spraying Techniques, effective year-round:

- Stump Swabbing:** Cut stem right through and apply 5g/L of **MSF600** liberally to the fresh-cut stump surface.
- Cut & Squirt:** Make cuts with a small axe or machete every 15cm around the trunk and squirt into each a dollop of thin paste made with **MSF600** and water.
- Injection:** Drill holes downwards at an angle into trunk, into the sapwood level, at 15cm intervals around the lower trunk. Using a drench gun or similar squirt a slurp of **Glyphosate 360** at 300ml/L water or undiluted **GrassMate**, or a **MSF600** slurry/paste into each hole.

Spraying:

Spray with **MSF600** at 5g per 15L knapsack, or 35g/100L by handgun. Spray only during ideal growth conditions; Nov–Mar. Works best on bushes to 3M height. Thorough coverage of all foliage is essential. Use **SuperWetter** at 10ml/10L water to aid penetration.