

# WEED INFORMATION SHEET

## PRIVET

### Environmental Weed



#### Privet - (*Ligustrum spp*)

Introduced as a garden plant, Privet has become a major pest of urban bushland and riparian zones. Producing numerous berries that are a food source for some bird species, they can drop seeds in abundance under trees and along fence lines over a wide area. Seed viability appears to be quite high.

Photos courtesy K.Bunn and M Edmonds



There are two types of Privet in this region: a small leaf species and a broad leaf species. Both are introduced plants originating from China and Japan. Introduced as ornamental garden plants, they have adapted to our climate and spread into our native bushland areas and vacant allotments.



The plant produces masses of flowers in early spring, and the perfume and pollen is believed to be responsible for triggering allergic reaction in susceptible people.

Propagation is primarily by seed, with birds being the main agents for spreading the plant.

Privet can grow into large shrubs up to 4 metres high, and form almost impenetrable thickets along creek banks and in gullies. It can also be found as isolated plants along fence lines or under trees, where birds have dropped seed. Once established Privet can be difficult to control.