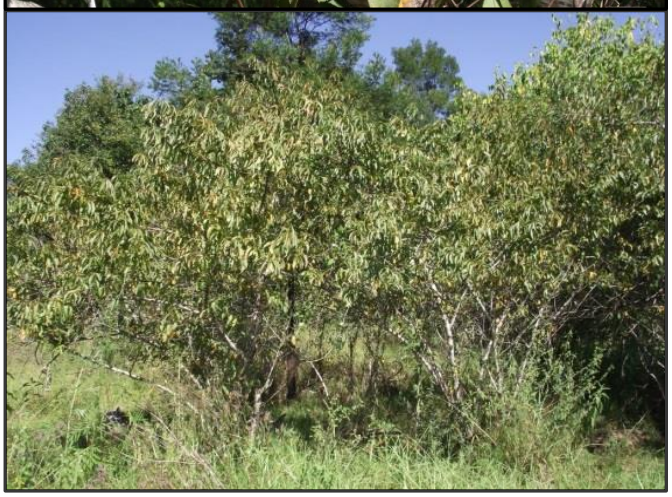
WEED INFORMATION SHEET

WILD PEACH

A wild peach is a wild growing form of the Peach (Prunus persica).
Common Names- flowering peach, peach, peach tree, wild peach
Origin- Native to eastern Asia (i.e. northern China).
Peach (Prunus persica var. persica) is regarded as an environmental weed in New South Wales and as a minor environmental weed in Victoria and South Australia.

Alternative arranged leaves. Elongated leaves with finely toothed margins

Greyish bark on main trunk



Wild peach are becoming a serious environmental weed, with large stands forming monocultures in many riparian zones alone creek lines and also along road reserves.

This introduced garden plant has escaped cultivation and is readily dispersed into natural areas by fruit-eating (iefrugivorous) birds, and other small mammals. It is spread by humans in dumped garden waste, the fruit and seeds by slashers, and in contaminated mulch and soil.

The fruit can float in water and spread along the banks of watercourses.

Once the fruit or seeds are deposited into bushland areas, the seedlings quickly grow in thickets to become an invasive plant. It is a weed of rainforests, open woodlands, forest margins, urban bushland, gardens, roadsides and riparian vegetation.

The fruit tend to be small, hold no economic value and are mostly damaged by fruit fly, a type of fruit tree disease or other pests.

These largely unmanaged pest and disease problems pose a huge threat to local fruit growers.

- Seedlings have a long tap root which makes hand pulling difficult unless the soil is quite moist.
- Hand pull seedlings and young plants holding the plant close to the ground to remove the whole plant along with its roots. Plants can also be dug out using a digging tool, taking care to remove all roots and runners.
- Do not leave the pulled plants on the moist ground and destroy all plant material to prevent rooting and reinfestation.
- Monitor frequently and remove any new plants. Mowing large patches of Peach seedlings will not prevent the plants re-sprouting and will increase stem density.
- Aggressive mechanical tillage is also effective. However, soil disturbance may stimulate seed germination from the soil seed bank.
- On large plants applying herbicide by cut stump, or scrape the bark on the trunk and apply chemical methods are effective.
- The glossy leaves require a wetting agent to make the herbicide stick on the foliage.
- Several systemic herbicides move through the plant to the roots when applied to the leaves or stems and have been found to be effective.