

Sweet Pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum

Environmental Weed

FLOWERS:

Bell-shaped creamy-white flowers (1-2 cm long) occurring in small clusters (4-5 in number) at the ends of the branches around Aug-Oct. Flowers are fragrant having pleasantly perfume in spring and early summer. Separate male and female flowers are usually borne on different plants

LEAVES:

Glossy green elliptical leaves some 6-75 cm long and 1.5-4 cm wide with distinctive wavy, or undulating margins.

STEMS:

Older stems are covered in a smooth light grey to brownish-coloured bark. Younger shoots are hairless (i.e. glabrous) or slightly hairy (i.e. puberulent) and green or reddish-brown in colour.

SEED:

Orange-tan berries 1 cm in diameter which contain 20-30 sticky seeds. These ripen during Autumn-winter and persist for several months.

LIFECYCLE:

Plants mature within 5 years. A large evergreen shrub or tree usually growing 4-14 m tall in its natural habitat but usually smaller in cultivation. Once established it creates a large canopy, outcompeting natives and pastures for light, water and nutrients.

CONTROL:

Reproducing plants (those that are bearing fruit) should be controlled first. Once the mature plants have been controlled you need to manage the soil seed bank to prevent reinfestation. Plants may reshoot after being cut. Seeds susceptible to fire (>130°C).

Non-chemical control: Hand pulling small juvenile plants is effective where soil is loose, and prior to root systems becoming established.

Chemical control:

- Cut and paint,
- Drill and fill

(ALL herbicides applications should be carried out as stated within the manufacturers guidelines and the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets.)