

EVERGREEN BUCKTHORN

Rhamnus alaternus

Management programme

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
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Impacts

Economic	Biodiversity	Soil resources	Water quantity/quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	Amenity/recreation	Animal welfare

Objectives

Reduce the level of infestation of evergreen buckthorn within the Waikato region to zero density to prevent adverse effects and impacts.

Why is it a pest?

Evergreen buckthorn poses a serious threat to coastal vegetation. It competes strongly with native coastal species and can restrict access to recreational areas.

Evergreen buckthorn's tolerance of drought, shade, frost, poorly drained soils and exposed sites means it can colonise a wide range of habitats, including coastal cliffs and rocky outcrops, stream and forest margins and disturbed forests and plantation areas. It can form dense colonies, altering the structure of native ecosystems in a short period of time.

Common in Auckland and on the islands of the Hauraki Gulf, evergreen buckthorn is limited in the Waikato region to only a few localised infestations in Hamilton, Te Kauwhata, Raglan and on the Coromandel. It is important to identify and destroy any infestations of this pest plant to prevent it from spreading further.

Responsibility for control

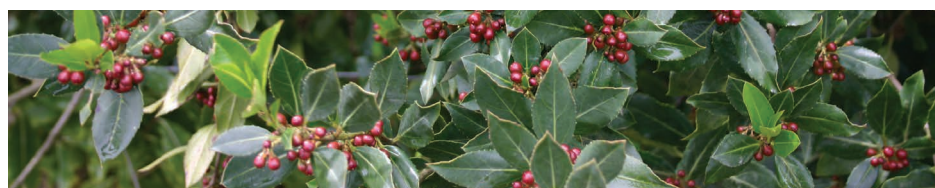
Waikato Regional Council is responsible for the control of evergreen buckthorn within the Waikato region. If you think you've seen it, call us. Do not attempt to control it yourself.

- All occupiers are encouraged to report sightings of evergreen buckthorn on their properties (rule EGB-1 of the **Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032**) and to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council in areas where control programmes are in place.

Developers

- If evergreen buckthorn is present on a property that is to be subdivided or developed, there are additional rules and requirements that apply under section 6.6 of the RPMP 2022-2032.

Evergreen buckthorn is banned from being sold, propagated, distributed, or included in commercial displays.



What does it look like?

Evergreen buckthorn is a shrub or small tree which grows 5m-10m tall (although can be less than 1m tall on exposed sites). It can be distinguished from native species by the two small indents at the base of the back of the leaf and the 'buckthorns' (matching bumps) on the top of its leaves.



Flower

- Flowers are small (3mm-4mm in diameter), green and fragrant.
- They have no petals and grow in small clusters from May to November.



Fruit/seed

- Individual plants are usually separate gender (male or female).
- Fruit (berries) are up to 7mm long.
- Berries grow in clusters and are a glossy dark red in colour.
- Berries form a stone and turn black when ripe.

Leaves/stems

- The leathery leaves vary in appearance, but are usually dark green, glossy on top, oval and up to 6cm long.
- Leaf edges can be smooth or have blunt or sharp teeth.
- Young shoots are angular, hairy, and usually purple.