

TREES

A woody plant usually with a single stem (trunk) exceeding eight metres in height.

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GROUND
COVERS

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GRASSES &
SEDGES

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TREES

LILLY PILLY AND LARGE LEAF PRIVET

NATIVE

Name Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*)

Family Myrtaceae (as are the Eucalypts and Angophoras)

Habit A shrub to tall tree.

Habitat Found in moist gullies, creeklines, rainforests and cliff lines.

Leaves Deep glossy green

Flowers Cream flowers that are fluffy and honey scented. Flowers November-February.

Fruit/seed Produces large white to pink berries that are edible and attract birds, possums and bats.



Native Lilly Pilly leaves, flower and fruit

WEED

Name Large Leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*)

Family Oleaceae

Habit Grey trunks often with white moss/lichen patches up it. It also has irregular bumps up its trunks called 'lenticels' that allow the trunk to breathe.

Habitat Wide range of habitats particularly disturbed areas with increased water and nutrient run-off.

Leaves Dark green, lower surface paler.

Flowers Creamy white with a sickly sweet fragrance. Flowers spring to summer.

Fruit/seed Like olives, are small (0.2cm wide) blue-black berries that attract birds. Birds contribute to distribution of Privet.

Origin China and Japan



Weed Large Leaf Privet leaves, flower and close up of bark

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

A distinctive feature of the Lilly Pilly that can identify it from the Large Leaf Privet is that the native has reddish brown tough bark. The leaf also has a distinctive elongated tip referred to as a 'drip tip'. Large leaf privet can be easily confused with the Lilly Pilly as a juvenile (and vice versa) due to the leaf shape. Privets can often out-compete other species and become a monoculture in bushland as a highly invasive weed. Birds assist with the distribution of Privet around the Sydney area.

WEED REMOVAL



GREY MYRTLE AND SMALL LEAF PRIVET

NATIVE

Name Grey Myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*)
is related to the Lilly Pilly

Family Myrtaceae

Habit Grows to 4m.

Habitat Widespread in warmer rainforests, often near streams and sheltered gullies.

Leaves Distinctive reddish stems with leathery leaves, often with horizontal ridges on its surface. New growth is slightly hairy and pink.

Flowers Mostly white, petals 2-3mm long.
Flowers Dec-Jan.

Fruit/seed Fruit is 6mm long topped by spreading sepals.

WEED

Name Small leaf Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

Family Oleaceae

Habit Grows to 3m tall.

Habitat Generally found on nutrient rich sites such as creeklines, runoff zones, stormwater drains and gullies.

Leaves Has grey stems and rather thin, pale green, opposite leaves, which are slightly rounded.

Flowers Produces petalled white flowers in spring.

Fruit/seed Purple/black berries.

Origin China

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Grey myrtle is generally easy to identify as an adult plant, growing, but as a seedling it can often be confused as a weed if it is growing amongst small leaf Privet seedlings. The Grey Myrtle has tougher, more leathery leaves and often has horizontal ridges on its surface. It also has a distinctive reddish stem as does the Lilly Pilly. New growth on Grey Myrtle is also slightly hairy and pink. Small leaf privet has purple/black berries that are readily spread by birds.

WEED REMOVAL



**Native Grey Myrtle
and flower**



**Weed Small Leaf
Privet and flower**

RED CEDAR AND RHUSTREE

NATIVE

- Name** Red Cedar (*Toona ciliata*)
Family Meliaceae
Habit 20-40m high.
Habitat Found in subtropical rainforests generally in the south and north of Sydney.
Leaves Pinnate leaves with no terminal leaflet, which are shiny on both sides. The leaves turn yellow in mid winter, and have rosy new leaves in spring.
Flowers Small white flowers.
Fruit/seed Brown woody capsules.

WEED

- Name** Rhus Tree (*Toxicodendron succedaneum*)
Family Anacardiaceae
Habit Grows to 8 metres.
Habitat Undisturbed bushland on fertile soils, gardens and public areas.
Leaves Tree crown spreads from a single trunk and has alternate compound leaves, with a terminal leaflet. Upper surface is dark green and the underside is light green. During winter the leaves turn a bright red colour and can be seen quite easily amongst surrounding native vegetation.
Flowers Yellowish green
Fruit/seed Clusters of pale brown berries (5-7mm).
Origin India and East Asia

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

In the past Red Cedar was logged for premium furniture timber. Rhus tree is commonly known to cause severe allergic reactions, especially after skin contact with the sap. This plant should be treated with care. Chinese Pistachio and Tree of Heaven (both non natives) also look like the Rhus tree but both have no terminal leaflet.

WEED REMOVAL

Removal of the Rhus Tree should be carried out with extreme care as this plant is highly toxic and can cause severe dermatitis and swelling of the face if come into contact with the skin.



Native Red Cedar leaves and juvenile Red Cedar



Weed Rhus Tree leaves and red winter leaves



Native Sunshine Wattle

Source: Jenifer Lewis, Hornsby Online Herbarium



Weed Albizia

SUNSHINE WATTLE AND ALBIZIA

NATIVE

- Name** Sunshine Wattle (*Acacia terminalis*)
- Family** Mimosaceae
- Habit** Shrub - small tree (to 2m).
- Habitat** Mostly found in woodlands and heath in moist sandstone soil.
- Leaves** Very tough, pointed and hairless. Oil glands on this wattle are not as significant as other wattle trees/shrubs.
- Flowers** Globular in shape and bright yellow in colour with long. Flowers in late summer to winter.
- Fruit/seed** Brown pods up to 3cm.

WEED

- Name** Albizia or Cape Wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*)
- Family** Fabaceae
- Habit** Evergreen shrub or small tree.
- Habitat** Garden escape. Can become dominant in bushland and coastal woodland.
- Leaves** Are compound with numerous small leaflets similar to some wattles (*Acacias*).
- Flowers** Greenish yellow or cream bottle brush-like flower clusters.
- Fruit/seed** Dark seed pods up to 10cm in length.
- Origin** Western Australia (has become naturalised in eastern Australia invading bushland).

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Cape Wattle can be distinguished from the native by its bottlebrush-like flowers, the Sunshine Wattle having small globular flowers.

WEED REMOVAL



SYDNEY GOLDEN WATTLE AND GOLDEN WREATH WATTLE

NATIVE

- Name** Sydney Golden Wattle
(*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *longifolia*)
- Family** Fabaceae
- Habit** Is an erect or spreading tree growing from 1 to 8m high.
- Habitat** Musually found on sandstone-derived soils in drier communities.
- Leaves** As with all Acacias, what appear to be leaves on the plant are in fact modified 'phyllodes' or leaf-stems. Phyllodes of the subspecies *longifolia* are usually 6 -20 cm long with 2, 3 or more prominent longitudinal veins.
- Flowers** Grow in cylindrical formations and as the name suggests are bright yellow in colour.
- Fruit/seed** Long narrow drooping seed pods.

WEED

- Name** Golden Wreath Wattle (*Acacia saligna*)
- Family** Fabaceae
- Habit** Highly adaptable, fast growing shrub.
- Habitat** Thrives in a range of habitats and is tolerant of poor soils and low rainfall.
- Leaves** Its phyllodes resemble those of the Sydney Golden Wattle however the Golden Wreath Wattle has a waxy surface that can be rubbed off, giving the plant a bluish look, and wavy leaf margins. Has a single prominent mid-vein and feather-like lateral veins.
- Flowers** Globular flower heads.
- Fruit/seed** Pods can be straight or curved.
- Origin** Western Australia (was introduced to the Sydney region and has become a weed in many coastal bushland areas, especially along roadsides).

The Golden Wreath Wattle often has a waxy surface that can be rubbed off, giving the plant a bluish look, and wavy leaf margins and leaves much longer than the Sydney Golden Wattle. A single prominent mid-vein differs from the 2, 3 or more in the native. The weed also has lateral veins that are feather-like in their placement, whereas the native veins all run parallel. Another distinguishing feature is the flower heads. Although similar in colour, the Western Australian plant has globular flower heads, unlike the cylindrical ones of the Sydney native species. Like most Acacias the seeds are carried around by ants and germinate profusely after a fire.

WEED REMOVAL



Native Sydney Golden Wattle



Weed Golden Wreath Wattle

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

The Sydney Golden Wattle can be confused with the Golden Wreath Wattle due to their similar leaf shapes, general appearance and growing locations. Despite the phyllodes of the Golden Wreath Wattle resembling those of the Sydney Golden Wattle, there are a couple of distinguishing features.



Native Water Gum



Weed Oleander

WATER GUM AND OLEANDER

NATIVE

- Name** Water Gum (*Tristania laurina*)
- Family** Myrtaceae
- Habit** Small spreading tree growing to around 10m.
- Habitat** Commonly along creek banks and sheltered gullies, often growing alongside Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) and Black Wattles (*Callitriche serratifolia*).

Leaves Has handsome foliage often with red young leaves and distinctive pale, bare and sheen bark when young, reminiscent of the Crepe Myrtle, and which frequently becomes scaly and blotchy when older.

Flowers Dense, leafy bundles of yellow flowers appear from December to February.

Fruit/seed Woody capsules 6-8mm in diameter.

WEED

- Name** Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
- Family** Apocynaceae
- Habit** Shrub, usually growing to about 6m, with many branches arising from near the ground.
- Habitat** Thrives in warm moist locations but once established is tolerant of very dry conditions.
- Leaves** Whorled on the stem, and when broken exude a milky white sap.
- Flowers** Can be white, pink, red, or yellow.
- Fruit/seed** Long narrow capsule which when mature releases many downy seeds.
- Origin** Mediterranean region

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

The Water Gum's lance-shaped leaves appear somewhat similar in shape, size and texture to those of the Oleander, although they are not as stiff and leathery, and are alternately placed along the stem. The Water Gum is commonly used as a street tree in suburbs around Sydney. Oleander is a garden ornamental that has also been used as a street tree and may be mistaken for the native Water Gum if growing in suburban bushland.

WEED REMOVAL

Due to their toxicity, care should be taken when removing Oleanders. Dust masks, protective goggles, gloves and long sleeves should be worn. Ideally, this should be done during the growing season, and may have little effect during winter. **WARNING!** This plant is very poisonous to humans.

