

# SHRUBS

A woody plant less than eight metres high and usually with many stems.

1  
GROUND  
COVERS

2  
GRASSES &  
SEDGES

3

VINES

4

SHRUBS

5

TREES

## MOCK OLIVE AND LARGE LEAF PRIVET

### NATIVE

- Name** Mock Olive (*Notelaea longifolia*)  
**Family** Oleaceae (same family as olives we eat).  
**Habit** Shrub to 2-3m.  
**Habitat** This native grows commonly on moist sloped, fertile soils, often in Privet forests (so take care when controlling Privet).  
**Leaves** Very tough and textured and when rubbed together feel and sound like rough paper. Leaves grow opposite, in a decussate formation from the stem. Has conspicuous rough network of veins.  
**Flowers** Creamish green in colour. Flowers autumn to spring.  
**Fruit/seed** Dark bluish black berries, 0.5cm wide.



**Native Mock Olive and its fruit**

### WEED

- Name** Large Leaf Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*)  
**Family** Oleaceae  
**Habit** Has 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, small (8mm wide) black berries that attract birds. Birds contribute to distribution of Privet.  
**Origin** China and Japan.



**Weed Large Leaf Privet**

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Large Leaf Privet can be easily confused with the Mock Olive due to similar leaf shape. The veins on the Privet are less obvious and the leaves much thinner and shinier than the *Notelaea*. Flowering Privet can affect allergy sufferers, so caution should be taken during the flowering season in spring.





**Native Tobacco**

Photos: Paul Marynissen and Steve Pym



**Weed Wild Tobacco and its flower**

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

The weed is easily distinguished from the native by the leaflet which grows from each leaf. Also the native is non-aromatic in comparison to the distinctive aroma of the weed.

### WEED REMOVAL

Care must be taken as the fine hairs can often be skin, eye and throat irritants.



## NATIVE TOBACCO AND WILD TOBACCO

### NATIVE

- Name** Native Tobacco or Flannel Leaf  
(*Astrotricha floccosa*)
- Family** Araliaceae
- Habit** Grows 2-3 m tall. This plant is fast growing, but short lived.
- Habitat** Restricted to the Sydney region, especially north of the harbour on sandstone soil types.
- Leaves** As the common name suggests the leaves feel like felt due to dense woolly hairs on the underside of the leaf and up the stem. The leaves are elongated and light green in colour, with no smell.
- Flowers** Small clusters of flowers that are white to cream and furry and appear in October to November.
- Fruit/Seed** A dry fruit which when mature splits into a number of parts.

### WEED

- Name** Wild Tobacco Tree  
(*Solanum mauritianum*)
- Family** Solanaceae
- Habit** Tree/shrub to 4m.
- Habitat** Moist edges, roadsides and pastures and occasionally is found growing in woodlands if they are moist enough.
- Leaves** Large broad leaves to 30cm long that are aromatic when rubbed. The leaves, like the native, are covered in dense hairs. These hairs also cover the trunk and branches. From each leaf a leaflet grows which easily distinguishes it from the native.
- Flowers** Bright purple flowers appearing in spring.
- Fruit/seed** Green succulent berries, autumn - spring.
- Origin** Tropical Asia

# BREYNIA AND CASSIA

## NATIVE

- Name** Breynia or Coffee Bush  
(*Breynia oblongifolia*)
- Family** Euphorbiaceae
- Habit** Grows to 2.5m tall and has a reddish brown stem.
- Habitat** Found in moist areas such as forests, sandstone gullies and creek banks on the Cumberland Plain.
- Leaves** Has alternate leaves which are rounded, dull and olive green.
- Flowers** Produces very small red flowers.
- Fruit/seed** Produces small berries that change from orange to black when ripe. Each berry arises from the leaf base alternately up the stem.



**Native Breynia**

## WEED

- Name** Cassia (*Senna pendula*)
- Family** Caesalpinaceae
- Habit** It is a pea plant that grows to 4m tall with stems that are very dark coloured and tough to cut.
- Habitat** Usually found on bushland edges or gardens in sunny, damp areas.
- Leaves** Appear opposite, but it has alternate leaves that are compound. The leaves are ovate to elliptic and pale green colour.
- Flowers** Distinctive bright yellow flowers about 3cm wide. These turn into long brown pods when ripe that are also very distinctive.
- Fruit/seed** Produces large bean like seed pods to 8cm long with 5-10 seeds each and very long lived.
- Origin** South America



**Weed Cassia and closeup of its flower**



## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Leaves arrangement along stem is the most obvious distinguishing feature when out of flower or fruiting time. Otherwise flowering and fruiting are very different as described above.

## WEED REMOVAL





**Native Breynia**



**Weed Phyllanthus tenellus**

## **BREYNIA AND PHYLLANTHUS TENELLUS**

### **NATIVE**

- Name** Breynia or Coffee Bush  
(*Breynia oblongifolia*)
- Family** Euphorbiaceae
- Habit** Grows to 2.5 m tall and has a reddish brown stem.
- Habitat** Found in moist areas such as forests, sandstone gullies and creek banks on the Cumberland Plain.
- Leaves** Has alternate leaves which are rounded, dull and olive green.
- Flowers** Produces very small red flowers.
- Fruit/Seed** Produces small berries that change from orange to black when ripe. Each berry arises from the leaf base alternately up the stem.

### **WEED**

- Name** *Phyllanthus tenellus*
- Family** Euphorbiaceae
- Habit** Grows up to 45cm tall.
- Habitat** Common, often insignificant weed that is hardy and grows in a range of locations.
- Leaves** Has wide obovate leaves 6-25mm long, pale underside to the leaf.
- Flowers** White
- Fruit/seed** Green capsules that turn brownish when ripe.
- Origin** Madagascar

### **DISTINCTIVE FEATURES**

There are also two native *Phyllanthus* sp. which may be confused with *P. tenellus* and they are *P. hirtellus* and *P. gunnii*. The two native species are however quite different. *P. hirtellus* or Thyme Spurge grows as a low herb, has hairy leaves and has a squarer leaf tip. *P. gunnii* more resembles the weed *P. tenellus*, having rounded/ obovate shaped leaves, but grows to 2m tall, bears reddish brown capsules and has leaves 10-20mm long.

### **WEED REMOVAL**



# POMADERRIS AND COTONEASTER

## NATIVE

- Name** Pomaderris sp. (e.g. *P. elliptica*, *P. ferruginea* and *P. intermedia*)
- Family** Rhamnaceae
- Habit** Pomaderris shrubs can grow between 2-3m.
- Habitat** Grow in protected valleys of sandstone and shale.
- Leaves** Have a felty underside leaf (which can be felt quite easily). The three common Pomaderris have leaves that are slightly different in shape, but all are discolourous, meaning that they are dark green on top, but whitish to cream underneath. The hairs on these species are slightly rusty in colour.
- Flowers** Have distinctive dense panicles of small flowers and seed heads.
- Fruit/seed** Produce small capsules which hold only a few seeds.

## WEED

- Name** Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*)
- Family** Rosaceae
- Habit** Can grow to 5m.
- Habitat** Grows readily on shale, fill and damp sandstone soils.
- Leaves** Arranged alternately and like the Pomaderris, are discolourous with fine felt on the underside. Cotoneaster hairs are not rust coloured though, but white.
- Flowers** Small white flowers.
- Fruit/seed** Bright red berries.
- Origin** China

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

The most distinctive feature of Pomaderris is the felty underside of the leaf (which can be felt quite easily). Unlike Pomaderris, Cotoneaster hairs are not rust coloured but white. Another distinguishing feature of cotoneaster is that from autumn to winter some leaves turn scarlet before dropping off. Birds are attracted to the berries of Cotoneaster and disperse them through bushland via droppings or regurgitation. Cotoneaster is often used as an ornamental garden plant.

## WEED REMOVAL



### Native Pomaderris

Source: Native Plants of the Sydney District, Fairley and Moore, Kangaroo Press 1989



### Weed Cotoneaster and its fruit



Source: Gardener's Companion to Weeds, S.Ermert, New Holland Publishers, 2001

## BLACKTHORN AND FIRETHORN

### NATIVE

- Name** Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*)  
**Family** Pittosporaceae  
**Habit** Erect shrub of 2-3 m.  
**Habitat** Found on the Cumberland Plain, creeklines on sandstone soils and in forests as an understorey plant.  
**Leaves** Foliage is sparse and has very small thorns arising at each leaf.  
**Flowers** Has a plume of small sweet smelling white flowers in summer.  
**Fruit/Seed** Small flattened seed capsules, circular in shape.

### WEED

- Name** Firethorn (*Pyracantha angustifolia*)  
**Family** Malaceae  
**Habit** Evergreen shrub to 4m in height.  
**Habitat** Cooler climates, and in Sydney grows in the Blue Mountains, on the North Shore of Sydney and on sandstone and shale soils.  
**Leaves** Leaves grow on large thorns.  
**Flowers** White clusters. Flowers mostly in spring and summer.  
**Fruit** Produces orange berries in the summer.  
**Origin** China

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Another similar weed is the African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferrocissimum*) which has darker red berries than the Firethorn and grows a lot larger, much spinier and often in impenetrable thickets. Originally introduced as a hedge plant in pastures. The thorns of the Firethorn are much larger than that of the



Native  
Blackthorn



Weed Firethorn and its fruit

native *Bursaria*. The distinctive orange berries are eaten and dispersed by birds. Firethorn was introduced from China as a garden plant and is often still found in rural areas.

### WEED REMOVAL

Beware of the thorns and make sure thick gloves and safety glasses are worn. If there are berries try to either compost them or bag them to prevent weed spread by birds.



# BLEEDING HEART AND CHINESE TALLOW TREE

## NATIVE

- Name** Bleeding Heart  
(*Homalanthus populifolius*)
- Family** Euphorbiaceae
- Habit** Is a native coloniser plant which grows as a leafy shrub to 2-4m tall.
- Habitat** Tends to grow opportunistically in rainforest and gully margins
- Leaves** Large (around 10-15cm long) heart shaped and hairless, and turn a deep red before they drop.
- Flowers** The flower head is a spike that arises at the tip of the leaf branch.
- Fruit/seed** Smooth capsule 8-10mm wide.



**Native Bleeding Heart**

## WEED

- Name** Chinese Tallow Tree  
(*Triadica sebifera*)
- Family** Euphorbiaceae
- Habit** Deciduous. Grows to 7m with a spread of 3m.
- Habitat** Prefers boggy soils, in protected sunny positions.
- Leaves** Has heart shaped leaves with a thin point at the tip. The leaves also turn red in autumn.
- Flowers** Has spikes of flowers, which are yellow. Flowers late spring to summer.
- Fruit/seed** Capsules green, maturing to black. Seeds whitish and up to 3 per capsule.
- Origin** China



**Weed Chinese Tallow Tree**

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

The Bleeding Heart plant has obvious red stalks and the leaf is much paler underneath than Chinese Tallow Tree. The Bleeding Heart has a semi succulent stem, and can be bushy. Chinese Tallow has heart shaped leaves but these are much smaller (around 7cm) and more abundant on each stem than Bleeding Heart.

## WEED REMOVAL



## INDIAN WEED AND BIDENS PILOSA

### NATIVE

**Name** Indian Weed (*Sigesbeckia orientalis*)

**Family** Asteraceae

**Habit** An annual which grows to 1.5m high. Is a coloniser that will germinate after disturbance. An important species as it protects native seedlings growing below it from the elements.

**Habitat** Grows in sunny open position at a rapid rate, but also grows well in shade.

**Leaves** Have deep/obvious branched venation and irregular serrations on the edges.

**Flowers** Produces small yellow flowers

**Fruit/Seed** Seed heads have sticky glands around them. (This helps them to attach to animals/ people for dispersal)

### WEED

**Name** Variety of common names: Cobblers Pegs, Farmers Friends, Devils Pitch Forks (*Bidens pilosa*)

**Family** Asteraceae

**Habit** Grows to 2 metres in height. Is an annual where it is subject to frost and perennial in warmer areas in Sydney.

**Habitat** This weed can travel far and wide and often grows thickly in sunny disturbed sites such as roadsides, tracks and bare soil.

**Leaves** Variable leaf shape and size.

**Flowers** White clusters. Flowers mostly in spring and summer.

**Fruit** Has yellow flowers with white petals.

**Origin** Temperate and tropical America



**Native Indian Weed and insert shows juvenile plant**



**Weed Bidens pilosa and insert shows juvenile plant and seed**

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Compared to the native *Sigesbeckia*, *Bidens* has leaves that are trifoliate (1 big leaf with two smaller leaves from the main leaf base).

### WEED REMOVAL

All flowers and seeds should be removed and bagged for disposal. The seeds are capable of staying viable for up to 5 years, so it is important to remove it before it seeds.



## NATIVE PEACH AND LANTANA

### NATIVE

- Name** Native Peach (*Trema tomentosa* prev. *T. aspera*)  
**Family** Ulmaceae  
**Habit** Shrub or small tree to 2.5m.  
**Habitat** Found on sandstone, shale and volcanic soils of Sydney commonly in moist forests and creek banks.  
**Leaves** Has fine grained smooth brown stems and rough, light green, thin-textured tri-veined leaves. Leaf margins are toothed and as with all members of the family, are alternately arranged on the stem.

**Flowers** Inconspicuous greenish flowers.

**Fruit/seed** The fruit of the Native Peach is small, black and shiny when ripe and less than 5mm in diameter. The small black drupes (berries) arise from each petiole and are ripe from Feb- May.



**Native Peach**

### WEED

- Name** Lantana (*Lantana camara*)  
**Family** Verbenaceae  
**Habit** Has square woody stems (as with all Verbenaceae), highly noticeable in lantana. Lantana has barbs up these stems that help the shrub to extend its branches and hook them onto trees like a vine. It also can grow as a dense thicket.  
**Habitat** Grows anywhere in temperate climates in coastal areas.  
**Leaves** Are opposite and odorous when crushed. Young Lantana can be identified by square stems and broad odorous leaves.  
**Flowers** Has brightly coloured flowers, with an array of colours.  
**Fruit/seed** Seeds yellow/brown to 4mm long capsule  
**Origin** North, Central and South America. Originally cultivated for hedges and garden.



**Weed Lantana**

Source: Paul Marynissen



### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Trema is often confused with Lantana due to the leaf venation. Lantana leaves are much wider than Trema and are odorous when crushed. Lantana leaves are also opposite while Trema are not. Young Lantana can be identified by the square stems and broad odorous leaves. Trema has rounded stems, the leaves have no conspicuous smell when crushed and grows as a tree/shrub but not a scrambler like Lantana.

### WEED REMOVAL

Lantana provides very good habitat for many birds and marsupials due to the thickets and protective barbed branches. Prior to removing this weed, check for signs of local fauna, such as nests or dreys present. Where possible, leave in situ to reduce impact with cut and painting of main stem. Return for follow up as branches can layer and re-sprout. Branches can be easily snapped, compacted and left as a small pile to decompose on a raft system (ensure roots are off the ground as it can re-sprout). This pile can provide habitat for small birds and lizards. Care should be taken by wearing gloves and safety glasses to protect against the barbs. Skirt and leave any climbing branches in trees.





**Native Narrow-leaf Myrtle**



**Weed Mexican False Heather**

### DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Narrow leaf myrtle can be confused with the Mexican False Heather largely because of their comparable appearance and the fact they can both be found in similar moist locations. Mexican False Heather can be distinguished from the Narrow-leaf Myrtle by its more elliptical leaves and purple-pink flowers, which appear in late winter and spring. The Mexican False Heather also lacks the strong eucalyptus smell when its leaves are crushed.

### WEED REMOVAL

Care should be taken not to disturb natives in the same rock crevice or growing close by. As the plant is generally found in creek lines, herbicide use should be kept to a minimum.



## NARROW-LEAF MYRTLE AND MEXICAN FALSE HEATHER

### NATIVE

- Name** Narrow Leaf Myrtle  
(*Austromyrtus tenuifolia*)
- Family** Myrtaceae
- Habit** Sprawling, dense, erect form, growing to around 1.5m.
- Habitat** Damp, sheltered places, mainly along sandstone creeks.
- Leaves** Opposite and narrow with fine stiff points, and the new shoots are covered in silky hairs. as with all members of the Myrtaceae family, the leaves of the Narrow-leaf Myrtle give off a strong Eucalyptus smell when crushed.
- Flowers** Small white flowers occur in November and December
- Fruit/Seed** Dark purple berries

### WEED

- Name** Mexican False Heather  
(*Cuphea hyssopifolia*)
- Family** Lythraceae
- Habit** Small shrub growing to 60cm.
- Habitat** Along creeklines and it is often seen growing between or on rocks the has been widely.
- Leaves** Elliptical leaves
- Flowers** Purple-pink flowers appearing late winter and spring.
- Fruit/seed** Capsule which releases seeds of about 1.5mm long
- Origin** Mexico and Guatemala

# NARROW-LEAVED ORANGEBARK AND GOLDFUSSIA

## NATIVE

- Name** Narrow-leaved Orangebark  
(*Maytenus silvestris*)
- Family** Celastraceae
- Habit** Low spreading or erect shrub up to 3m.
- Habitat** Relatively uncommon understory plant found in moist areas.
- Leaves** Narrow, alternate and fairly tough, occasionally with a few teeth towards the upper end.
- Flowers** White or pale green emerging in summer.
- Fruit/seed** Orange egg shaped berries.

## WEED

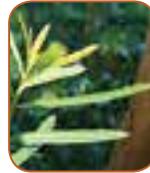
- Name** Goldfussia (*Strobilanthes anisophyllus*)
- Family** Acanthaceae
- Habit** Small shrub, growing up to 1.5m.
- Habitat** Tolerates full sun and shaded locations.
- Leaves** Glossy, dark green stained /purplish black, lance shaped and toothed. The stems are prominently ridged and often square in cross section.
- Flowers** Appear in spring and can be mauve, lavender or blue.
- Fruit/seed** Hairy 7-10mm long capsule.
- Origin** India

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Goldfussia is often selected by gardeners because of its dark foliage colour, a feature distinguishing it from the Narrow-leaved Orangebark. The similar leaf shape and growing conditions may cause confusion.

## WEED REMOVAL

The Acanthaceae seed generally disperse through the seed drying and exploding to spread seed away from the parent plant. Bag and dispose of all seed when removing this plant, or treat it before it forms seed capsules.



**Native Narrow-leaved  
Orangebark**



**Weed Goldfussia**



**Native Peach**



**Different leaf venation of Trema (left) to Celtis (right)**



**Weed Hackberry**

## DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

The Native Peach can be confused with both the Hackberry and cultivated peach trees, largely because of similarities in the appearance of the leaves. However, unlike these two look-alikes, the Native Peach is an evergreen and retains its leaves throughout the year. The Hackberry has been used as an ornamental tree in Australia, escaping to become a weed. Despite belonging to the same family as the Native Peach, the leaves of the Hackberry differ in that only the upper surface is rough to the touch. Also, the fruit of the Hackberry is larger than that of the Native Peach, growing to around 1cm in diameter. The peach tree, grown for its edible fruit, can escape into bushland from orchards and backyards, or from discarded seeds. The leaves lack the roughness of the Native Peach, and the vein structure appears quite different. The Peach tree has numerous lateral veins running almost perpendicular to the large mid-vein, whereas the native Peach has fewer veins coming off the mid-vein and at a much sharper angle. The peach is not an invasive weed.

## WEED REMOVAL

Treat during the growing season.



# NATIVE PEACH AND HACKBERRY

## NATIVE

**Name** Native Peach (*Trema tomentosa* prev. *T. aspera*)

**Family** Ulmaceae

**Habit** Shrub or small tree to 2.5m.

**Habitat** Found on sandstone, shale and volcanic soils of Sydney commonly in moist forests and creek banks.

**Leaves** Has fine grained smooth brown stems and rough, light green, thin-textured tri-veined leaves. Leaf margins are toothed and as with all members of the family, are alternately arranged on the stem.

**Flowers** Inconspicuous greenish flowers.

**Fruit/Seed** Fruit of the Native Peach is small, black and shiny when ripe and less than 5mm in diameter. The small black drupes (berries) arise from each petiole and are ripe from Feb-May.

## WEED

**Name** Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

**Family** Ulmaceae

**Habit** Medium sized deciduous tree.

**Habitat** Along rivers and creeks in Sydney bushland.

**Leaves** The base of leaves are usually quite strongly asymmetrical and the upper surface (only) is rough to touch.

**Flowers** Greenish flowers.

**Fruit/seed** A purplish black fleshy drupe which grows to 1cm diameter.

**Origin** North America