

## SHRUBS

### *Leptospermum laevigatum* Coastal Tea-tree



**Origin:** Coastal areas of Vic (Angelsea area eastwards) also NSW, SA, Tas.

**Description:** Grey/green leaf shrub/small tree 2-5m.

**Fruits/Seeds:** Seeds in flat topped capsules which open soon after drying out after branches are cut.

**Dispersal:** Wind, water, ants, soil/garden refuse.

**Invades:** Dry coastal areas, heathlands, grasslands and woodlands. It has been widely planted away from its natural environment, primarily for its soil binding properties however here it can become weedy. Do not plant near remnant vegetation. As Coastal Tea-tree is a native plant, a **planning permit** would be required before removal. Establish replacement indigenous species first to minimise loss of faunal habitat then remove plants progressively to limit erosion. **CONTACT COUNCIL FOR ADVICE.**



## SHRUBS

### *Lycium ferocissimum* African Boxthorn



**Status:** “Regionally Controlled Weed”.

**Origin:** South Africa

**Description:** Very thorny, many-branched shrub to 5m with small oval leaves and purple-white flowers.



**Fruits/Seeds:** Orange-red 5-12mm berries.

**Dispersal:** Seed spread by birds and animals, and in dumped garden waste. Also suckers from broken root fragments.

**Invades:** Coastal vegetation, sand dunes, grassland, woodland, around waterways, rocky outcrops. As boxthorn can be habitat for the endangered Orange Bellied Parrot, establish replacement indigenous species first before removing. For advice, contact council or Department of Sustainability & Environment.



## SHRUBS

### *Polygala myrtifolia* Myrtle-leaf Milkwort



**Origin:** South Africa

**Description:** Shrub 1-4m tall, with green, oval-shaped leaves up to 40mm long and clusters of pea-type mauve/purple and white flowers throughout much of the year, but mostly Aug – Dec.

**Fruits/Seeds:** Prolific amount of green turning papery brown 5mm seed pods.

**Dispersal:** Can produce thousands of seedlings per square metre. Seeds are carried by birds, ants, water, wind, by vehicle tyres and human shoes and clothing, in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste.

**Invades:** Coastal areas, heathland, forests, woodland, grassland, waterway sides, limestone cliffs.



## SHRUBS

*Rhamnus alaternus*

Italian Buckthorn



**Origin:** Europe

**Description:** Dense shrub or small tree to 5m, dark green leaves that are shiny on top and paler underneath, clusters of yellow-green flowers May to October.



**Fruits/Seeds:** Prolific number of red turning black berries in Summer.

**Dispersal:** Seed is carried by birds and in dumped garden waste.

**Invades:** Coastal and inland areas, where its dense foliage shades out native vegetation. Re-shoots readily if top growth is removed or damaged.



## SHRUBS

*Rosa rubiginosa*

Sweet Briar



**Status:** “Regionally Controlled Weed”

**Origin:** Europe & Asia

**Description:** Deciduous, thorny, scrambling shrub with typical rose-like appearance to 3m tall. Pinkish-white, 5-petalled fragrant flowers Nov to Jan.



**Fruits/Seeds:** 15-20mm oval-shaped, red-orange fruits when ripe containing numerous seeds and brown bristles.

**Dispersal:** Seeds spread by birds, foxes, water, dumped garden waste, machinery. Also suckers from root and crown fragments.



## SHRUBS

### *Rubis fruticosus* spp. agg.      Blackberry



**Status:** “Regionally Controlled Weed”.

**Origin:** Europe

**Description:** Prickly, climbing shrubs, 2-4m or higher. Can form dense thickets. Dark green leaves and white, 5-petalled flowers in spring - summer.



**Fruits/Seeds:** Segmented edible berries turning from red to black.

**Dispersal:** Seed dispersed by birds and foxes. Also suckers from roots and tip-rooting.

**Invades:** Roadsides, gullies, river banks, pastures, forests, dunes. Can form impenetrable thickets, completely smothering native vegetation.



## SHRUBS

*Solanum linnaeanum*

Apple of Sodom



**Status:** “Restricted Weed”.

**Origin:** South Africa

**Description:** Erect bushy green perennial shrub to 1.5m. Leaves 4-8 cm long, elliptic with margins deeply lobed. Sharp spines on leaves and stems.



**Fruits/Seeds:** Produces large yellow berries which contain hundreds of seeds.

**Dispersal:** Seed transported by birds, animals and soil removal.

**Invades:** Coastal areas, heathland, woodlands, and grasslands.



## SHRUBS

*Ulex europaeus*

Gorse



**Status:** “Regionally Controlled Weed”.

**Origin:** Europe

**Description:** Dense, very spiny, evergreen shrub, usually 2-4m high, with clusters of golden flowers. Can form dense thickets smothering all other vegetation and sheltering vermin.

**Fruits/Seeds:** Seeds prolifically. 1-2cm brown, hairy pods explode to release seed in hot weather.

**Dispersal:** Birds, animals, vehicles, machinery, contaminated soil and dumped waste.

**Invades:** Coastal areas, heathland, grassland, woodland, forests, waterway sides, pastures, disturbed sites.

