

# Radiata Pine

Linear  
leaves

*Pinus radiata*

- Fast-growing tree up to 50 metres tall with a long straight cylindrical trunk.
- Bark is dark reddish-brown, thick, and deeply furrowed.
- Leaves are linear, arranged in groups of three, and are aromatic when crushed.
- Radiata pine can be confused with native species particularly she-oak (*Allocasuarina sp.*) and native cherry (*Exocarpos sp.*), however, these native species lack the same aromatic effect of introduced pine species.



Closed cone



## Environmental Weed

### METHODS OF CONTROL

Control is best undertaken when radiata pines are small. As they can grow up to 1.5 metres per year, it doesn't take long before what would have been a simple task to remove a small pine becomes a difficult, dangerous, and expensive task to remove the large pine that it has become.

#### Non-chemical control:

- Handweed:** seedlings can be hand pulled or dug out if the main root is removed.
- Cut down:** trees can be cut down without the need for herbicide use, but they must be cut as close to the ground as possible. All green needles need to be removed to ensure the stumps do not re-sprout.

#### Chemical control:

- Foliar spraying:** spraying can be effective, providing it is carefully chosen and selectively applied. It is generally limited to small plants. Herbicides containing Metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate) are effective if applied during periods of active growth. The addition of a wetting agent or penetrant (eg. Pulse Penetrant) will improve uptake of the herbicide. For spraying to be effective, cover all the foliage with herbicide.
- Cut and paint:** cut stems as low to the ground as possible and paint neat Glyphosate herbicide on the stump within 15 seconds. Although not usually a requirement for radiata pine control, this method will increase the success rate.
- Stem injection:** larger radiata pines may be stem-injected with herbicide. Holes 8 -10 mm in diameter are drilled down at an angle into the sapwood around the base of the tree at 5 -10 cm intervals, ensuring there is an injection point below each major branch. Make the holes about 4 cm deep and inject approximately 5 mL of undiluted Glyphosate herbicide into the holes immediately after drilling each one. **Use this method only when falling branches (as the tree dies) will not be a safety hazard.**

### IMPACTS

Radiata pine can have significant impacts on the natural environment by competing with and displacing native plants. Pines reduce the fertility of soils, alter the nutrient and water cycles, reduce light levels and generate thick layers of pine needles that prevent regeneration of native species. Pines can also impact on human health as some people can be sensitive to the pollen and dust that they produce.