

# Darwin's barberry

*Berberis darwinii*

- Darwin's barberry is a spiny shrub growing to 4 metres tall.
- The small leaves are shiny, dark green and leathery
- At the base of the leaves there is a sharp five-pronged spine.
- Clusters of orange flowers appear in spring, followed by dark purple berries in summer.
- The wood is bright yellow, which is seen when the stems are cut.



leaves



Flowers



**Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019**

## REMOVING DARWIN'S BARBERRY

### By hand

- Seedlings and small plants can be hand pulled in moist or sandy soil. Take care as plants break off easily and any remaining roots in the soil will grow again into a new plant. Removed plants can be left on site to break down.

### Cut stump method

- Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and paint undiluted Glyphosate herbicide on the stump within 15 seconds.

### Stem injection

- This method is for woody weeds with stems greater than 10 cm in diameter at the base. Drill holes about 5cm apart around each stem, angled downwards and sideways into the sapwood just under the bark. Immediately inject herbicide in each hole using a squirt bottle or syringe. Only plants that can be safely left to die and rot should be treated this way. If the plant needs to be felled, allow it to die completely before **felling**.

### Foliar spraying

- Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. This method can be used to control Darwin's barberry, but it is generally limited to smaller plants and regrowth. Several herbicides work well on Darwin's barberry including Metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate) which is practically non-toxic. Herbicides can have a difficult time sticking to and penetrating the thick waxy leaves of Darwin's barberry, so adding a wetting agent such as Pulse Penetrant is important for the spraying to be effective at killing the plant.

## IMPACTS

Darwin's barberry can invade a wide range of landscapes. It is generally found where the soil has been disturbed, however it also has the ability to invade our bushland reserves and other natural areas where it can replace native species. Darwin's barberry can form very dense thickets and, due to their spikey leaves, prevent access for land management and recreational activities.

