

Berry-flower heath

Erica baccans

Shrub

- Berry-flower heath is a woody shrub that usually grows to around 2 m tall.
- It has lots of stiff, narrow, upward pointing leaves.
- Bright pink flowers are roundish, but with four ridges that give each flower a box-like appearance.
- Flowers from August to November.



Flowers



Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019

REMOVING BERRY-FLOWER HEATH

By hand

- Seedlings and small plants can be hand pulled in moist or sandy soil. Take care as plants break off easily, and remaining roots left in the soil will grow new stems. 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.

Foliar Spraying

- Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. This method can be highly effective, but it is generally limited to smaller plants and regrowth. Several herbicides work well on berry-flower heath including Metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate). The addition of a wetting agent, such as Pulse Penetrant, will help the herbicide be absorbed by the plant. For spraying to be effective, cover all the leaves with herbicide.

Berry-flower heath can be confused with some native shrubs. Care should be taken to correctly identify berry-flower heath before any control methods are used. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the Natural Areas and Biodiversity team to confirm.

IMPACTS

Berry-flower heath can invade a wide range of landscapes, but is generally found where the soil has been disturbed. It has the ability to invade our bushland reserves and other natural areas, where it can outcompete and replace native species. Large areas of berry-flower heath also increase fuel loads and add to fire hazards.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Berry-flower heath spreads by seed and is moved around the landscape by wind and water. It can also be spread through slashing, or when soil and mud containing seeds is moved by vehicles, machinery or shoes. A mature shrub can produce millions of tiny seeds.



Flowers & leaves