

Pittosporum undulatum

Common names: Native Daphne, Sweet Pittosporum, Australian Daphne, Native Laurel

Family: Pittosporaceae

Not-so-fun Facts:

- ★ Not native to our Melbourne gardens. It is, however, native to wet forests in coastal areas of southern Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria
- ★ A very adaptable species tolerating almost all conditions. As a result it is found growing everywhere: suburban gardens, roadsides, coastal areas, heathland, grassland, woodland, wet and dry sclerophyll forests, rainforests, open Eucalypt forests, cleared and disturbed soils, and in temperate, subtropical and tropical zones
- ★ These trees are fast growing, form dense canopies and will shade out native vegetation
- ★ It is a declared weed in New South Wales and Western Australia



Image source: Private collection. Photos by M. Thomson

Identifiable characteristics:

- ★ Tall, fast growing, evergreen shrub or small tree with a grey trunk and round crown
- ★ Generally grows up to 15m tall and 6m wide, although it can grow taller in the right conditions: up to 25 m high and 12 m wide
- ★ Foliage is very dense and create areas of deep shade beneath the canopy
- ★ Leaves are shiny, dark green above and paler on the underside
- ★ New growth appears in winter and spring and is lighter in colour
- ★ Fragrant creamy-white flowers 1-2cm long in clusters of 4-5, forming at the end of stems from September to November
- ★ Orange fruit up to 1.5cm long. Immature fruit is green, turning yellow



Image source: Agriculture Victoria. Photos by M. Imhof

Life cycle:

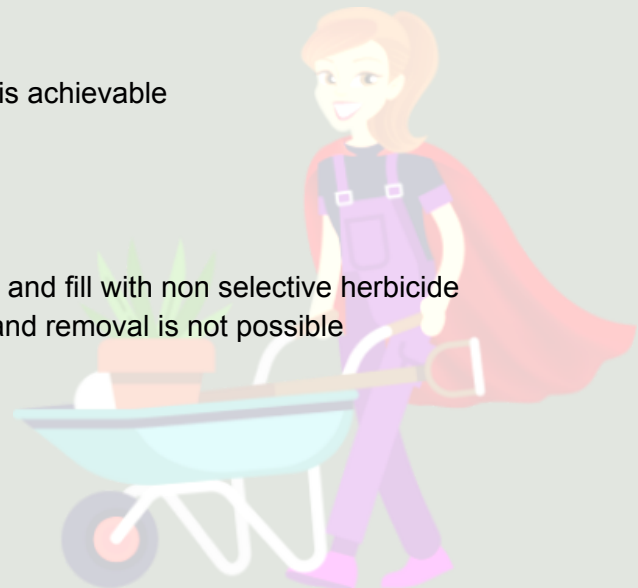
- ★ Trees produce seed within 5 years
- ★ Mature specimens can produce thousands of red-brown sticky seeds each year
- ★ THOUSANDS!!
- ★ Seeds germinate easily in shaded areas in Autumn
- ★ Seeds are dispersed by birds, animals and in garden waste

Non chemical control methods:

- ★ Physical removal of smaller specimens is achievable
- ★ Ensure all roots are removed
- ★ Fruiting branches should be destroyed

Chemical control methods:

- ★ Larger specimens - cut and paint or drill and fill with non selective herbicide
- ★ Smaller specimens can be sprayed if hand removal is not possible
- ★ Follow up treatment may be required



References & super helpful resources:

Agriculture Victoria

https://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_trees_sweet_pittosporum

Marshall, T. (2010). *Weed: the ultimate gardener's guide to organic weed control*. HarperCollinsPublishersAustralia Pty Ltd.

Nillumbik Shire Council

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Explore/Environment/Natural-environment/Plants-and-trees/Weeds>

VICFLORA Flora of Victoria

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/flora/taxon/3f3f9dc4-294e-415c-b628-3f643323e78a>

Yarra Ranges Council

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Trees-and-vegetation/Weeds>

