

MEDIA RELEASE

Environmental Weed of the Month – Coffee (*Coffea arabica*)

Common names

Coffee, Coffee Bean Tree

Family

Rubiaceae

Origin

East Africa

Description

An evergreen tree that can grow up to 10m in height, but is often pruned when in cultivation. Leaves (15-20cm) are dark green and glossy, arranged in opposite pairs along the stem with deep veins radiating from the central midrib. Flowers are small, white and fragrant with 5 petals (similar to Jasmine). These emerge along the stem where the petiole joins. After about 6 weeks flowers will give way to small, olive shaped green fruits that ripen into a deep red colour (1-1.5cm in length). Contained inside each berry are two seeds, or 'coffee beans' encased in a fleshy coating.

How do they spread?

Spread by seed. The berries are highly popular for birds and are readily spread far from the parent tree. Many seeds also fall to the ground creating a thick blanket of seedlings beneath the parent tree/s. Also spread by waterways.

Why are they an issue?

Popular ornamental plants that are often left to go wild. Seeding is prolific and containment of seed drop is near impossible. Plants naturalise readily and can out compete with natives in a bushland environment.



Photo Credit: Tara Patel



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NORFOLK ISLAND

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Where are you likely to find it?

Gardens, bushland, valleys, very opportunistic so will grow in most areas.

How can I control it?

1. Hand weed small plants.
2. Over spray seedlings 200 mL Glyphosate (360 g/L) per 10 L of water
3. Cut stump paint or injection method with 1 part Glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water.
4. Basal Bark application with 300mL Garlon with 20L Diesel.



Photo Credit: Marcelo Correa

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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