



WEED OF THE MONTH

MARCH

KARAMU

Scientific name: Coprosma robusta

A New Zealand native, karamu was introduced to Australia as a nursery plant in the late 1800s. Karamu has since established itself in a handful of sites in Tasmania, where it poses a serious threat due to its ability to invade undisturbed native forest.

In the Huon Valley, karamu threatens a range of lowland forest types, coastal vegetation, and especially riverside areas, where it forms dense stands that outcompete all other plants.

Karamu is restricted to only a few sites in Tasmania, so complete eradication is still possible. In the Huon Valley, the weed is known to occur only along the Kermandie River near Geeveston. Council is working with stakeholders to develop an eradication plan for karamu in the Geeveston area.

Have you seen it?

- Shrub or small tree up to 6m
- Leaves are dark green, oval-shaped with pointed tips, and sit opposite one another in pairs on branchlets
- Flowers are small and inconspicuous, but develop into yellow-to-orange fleshy fruits which are eaten and spread by birds
- Fruits start to appear toward the end of summer
- Karamu may be confused with mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*), which looks very similar but has rounder leaves without pointed tips

We need your help to eradicate this weed from the Huon Valley.

Please report local sightings to Council:
Weed Management Officer
(03) 6264 0300
nrm@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Information on weed management, including developing your own weed management plan, can be found on Council's website at www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au.

