

Rowan

Sorbus aucuparia



Identification

- A tree up to 12 m
- Leaves divided into pairs of leaflets (up to 8) plus a terminal leaflet
- Large clusters of white flowers are seen October to November
- Deep orange berries (range from pink to red) from January to April
- Deciduous—leaves turn golden in autumn



Rowan in flower Photo: C Howell (DOC)



Rowan sapling in autumn Photo: P Willemsse (DOC)

Where is it found?

Rowan grows in many parts of New Zealand from the coast to 1000 m altitude. It can be found in many open areas through to disturbed forest.

Why is it a problem?

Rowan grows quickly and tolerates a wide range of conditions, including cold, dry, poor soils, wind, salt and shade. It spreads easily as the fruits are widely dispersed by birds. It is a particular problem in high country open tussock land where it thrives.

Control

Small saplings can be pulled out. Rowan suckers readily, so just cutting it down will not control it. For individual trees, either cut the tree down and treat the cut stump with herbicide, or drill holes around the trunk and fill the holes with a suitable herbicide.



Rowan leaves and berries Photo: C Buddenhagen