

Baccharis

Baccharis halimifolia

Family Asteraceae



Identification

- Evergreen, multi-branched shrub that can grow up to 4 metres tall.
- The small leaves are oblong in shape.
- The leaf edges are toothed, predominantly above the middle of the leaf.
- Small, cream flowers are produced from February to May.
- Cotton-like seed heads follow flowering.



Baccharis seed heads. Photo: L. Vervoort.

Status

Baccharis has been declared an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993, which makes it illegal to knowingly release, spread, display or sell, breed, propagate or otherwise distribute plants or part thereof.

Baccharis is also a 'Total Control' plant under Canterbury's Regional Pest Management Strategy (2005-2015). For more information on Total Control plant strategy rules, visit www.ecan.govt.nz.

Have you seen it?

If you think you have found Baccharis, please contact Environment Canterbury or the Potential Pest Line on (03) 363 9380 immediately.



Baccharis Photo: Environment Canterbury (G. Bradfield).

Where is it found?

Baccharis can be found growing in rock crevices, on open and dry hillsides, waste places and in private gardens.

Baccharis is of limited distribution in Canterbury. It has been found growing on the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula.

Why is it a problem?

Baccharis is a threat to pastoral grazing. A hardy and adaptive shrub, Baccharis can withstand severe droughts. It is also able to establish readily from wind-dispersed seed.



Baccharis showing the toothed leaf margins. Photo: L. Vervoort.