

NOXIOUS WEED PROFILE



Rhus Tree *Toxicodendron succedaneum*



IDENTIFICATION

Habit: Small deciduous tree to 8 metres high, with a spreading crown.

Leaves: 7-15 opposite pairs of leaflets with a distinctive terminal leaflet, (making it recognizable from other similar species). The leaflets turn a brilliant red in autumn and are shed.

Flowers: Creamy white flowers produced in spring – early summer.

Fruit: Pale brown berry, papery berry when ripe, 5-7mm. Produced end of summer-autumn in clusters.

Dispersal: Birds.

Origin: A native from China and Japan.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Rhus Tree is declared a Noxious Weed in the City of Randwick and many other areas under the **Noxious Weed Act 1993**. Rhus Tree is classified as a **Class 4 Noxious Weed**, which means that the weed poses a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, is widely distributed in an area and is likely to spread to surrounding areas if not controlled.

Rhus tree is most likely to be a garden escapee. The berries, which are eaten by a variety of birds has helped in its dispersal.

The leaves, stems or sap of the plant can also cause a severe allergic reaction within hours of merely brushing against the skin.

The tree is not widespread in Randwick but its control is essential to prevent its spread.

METHODS OF REMOVAL

This plant should only be removed if full face and body cover and respiratory precautions are taken.

Professional advice should be sought. Should you choose to remove the plant yourself, wait until the leaves have fallen and use the cut and paint method, where the use of an approved herbicide is applied to the stump. **DO NOT BURN** as the smoke is toxic.

Note: When using herbicide to control weeds the user has a legal obligation to read the herbicide manufacturer's label and apply the herbicide in accordance with that label. Responsible use of herbicides protects human health and the natural environment.

CONFUSING SPECIES

1. Chinese Pistachio (*Pistachia chinensis*)
2. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
(Both plants have no terminal leaflet)

For enquiries regarding Noxious Weeds contact Council's Biodiversity Officer on:
Ph (02) 9399 0683 or 1300 722 542.