

# Karamu

*Coprosma robusta*

- Large shrub or small tree to 6m.
- Large oval-shaped leaves that are thick and glossy with pointed tips.
- Flowers are small, greenish and grow in clusters.
- Fruit is a fleshy berry, green initially, ripening to orange-red during summer.
- Karamu is similar to the related mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*) however mirror bush has thicker, very glossy leaves that are rounded with a blunt tip.



Leaves

Fruit



**Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019**

## REMOVING KARAMU

### BY HAND

- Seedlings and small plants can be hand pulled in moist or sandy soil. Take care as plants break off easily and remaining roots can reshoot. Plants should be left on site to break down.

### CUT STUMP METHOD

- Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and paint undiluted Glyphosate herbicide on the stump within 15 seconds. In situations where karamu is growing along waterways, use an aquatic-approved Glyphosate formulation (e.g. Weedmaster Duo).
- Karamu can be hard to kill. It is important to monitor treated plants for any regrowth and undertake follow up control as required.

## IMPACTS

Karamu can spread rapidly and cause devastation to waterways and surrounding habitat. It forms dense groves that smother native vegetation, while also preventing access for land management and recreational activities.

## HOW IT SPREADS

Karamu reproduces by seeds which are distributed mainly by birds. Infestations have also been found as a result of dumped garden waste.

## COMPARISON WITH MIRROR BUSH

Karamu is similar to the related mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*) however mirror bush has thicker, very glossy leaves that are rounded with a blunt tip.



Mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*)



Karamu (*Coprosma robusta*)