

# Burgan

*Kunzea ericoides*

- Erect shrub or small tree growing to 6 metres high
- It has lots of narrow dark green leaves
- Clusters of white flowers are crowded near the ends of branches.
- Burgan is very similar to manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) which is native. The leaves of burgan are soft to touch whereas manuka leaves are prickly.
- Burgan flowers and seed capsules have a short stalk which also helps distinguish it from manuka, and other native teatree species.

Large  
mature  
Burgan



## Environmental Weed

### REMOVING BURGAN

#### By hand:

Burgan seedlings are very difficult to hand pull. Plants break off easily and the remaining roots will grow new stems.

#### Cut and paint:

Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and apply herbicide to the exposed stump within 15 seconds.

#### Foliar spraying:

Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. This method can be used to control burgan, but it is generally limited to smaller plants and regrowth. The most effective herbicide products are those containing metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate). Herbicides might not penetrate the leaves of burgan very well and adding a wetting agent, such as Pulse Penetrant, helps ensure that spraying is effective and kills the plant.

#### Basal bark:

Basal bark applications can be used to control trees approximately 20 cm in diameter or less, as the bark on smaller trees is often thinner and easier for the herbicide to penetrate. Herbicides, such as triclopyr (eg. Garlon), are mixed with an oil-based penetrant (eg. Biosafe) or diesel, and then painted all the way around the stem from ground level to a height of 50 centimetres. This technique can take several months to show results, so you will need to be patient.

Burgan can easily be confused with some native shrubs. Care should be taken to correctly identify burgan before any control methods are used. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the Natural Areas and Biodiversity team to confirm.

### IMPACTS

Burgan is native to south-eastern Australia, but not Tasmania. It has been planted in many gardens throughout Kingborough, from which it has then spread and invaded a wide range of landscapes. Burgan looks very similar to local native tea tree species, blending into the Tasmanian environment and hiding the extent of the problem.

Burgan is more likely to establish where soils have been disturbed, however it is also known to invade bushland reserves and other natural areas. In these environments, it has the ability to out-compete and replace our native species. Large stands of burgan also have the potential to increase fire risk due to its flammable nature and tendency to burn with extreme intensity



Burgan  
Flowers



manuka seed  
capsules for  
comparison