

# Silky heath

*Erica holosericea*

- Silky heath is a woody shrub that can grow to around 1 m tall.
- It has lots of stiff, narrow, upward pointing leaves. The young leaves are covered in fine hairs which gives the plant a “silky” appearance.
- Pale pink flowers are roundish, with darker tips.
- Flowers from June to November.



flowers



**Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019**

*invading Eucalypt  
dry forest*

## REMOVING HOLLY

**By hand:** Isolated plants can be hand pulled and left on site to break down. Take care as plants break off easily, and remaining roots left in the soil may grow new stems. Be aware that any disturbance to soil through physical removal, or spraying of non-selective herbicides such as glyphosate, will encourage further germination of seeds.

**Cut stump method:** Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and paint undiluted glyphosate herbicide on the stump within 15 seconds.

**Foliar spraying:** Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. This method can be highly effective, but it is generally limited to smaller plants and regrowth. Several herbicides work well on silky heath including triclopyr (eg. Garlon). The addition of a wetting agent, such as Pulse Penetrant, will help the herbicide be absorbed by the plant. For spraying to be effective, cover all the leaves with herbicide.

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

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD

Silky heath spreads by seed and is moved around the landscape by wind and water. It can also be spread through slashing, or when soil and mud containing seeds is moved by vehicles, machinery or shoes. A mature shrub can produce millions of tiny seeds.

## IMPACTS

Silky heath can invade a wide range of landscapes. It is generally found where the soil has been disturbed, however it can also invade our bushland reserves and other natural areas, where it can outcompete and replace native species. Large areas of silky heath also increase fuel loads and add to fire hazards.