

1. Habit of tree in fruit. 2. Leaves and cluster of small white flowers. 3. Immature fruit with papery wings. 4. Seedling with rounded leaflets.



Himalayan ash (*Fraxinus griffithii*)

Introduced

Not Declared

Himalayan ash is a small tree of the Oleaceae plant family that is native to the Indian sub-continent, China and south-eastern Asia. It has been widely planted as an ornamental tree in Australia in the last thirty years and is beginning to spread from plantings into bushland areas in south-eastern Queensland.

Distribution

Himalayan ash is commonly grown as a garden and street tree in Australia, and has been recorded becoming naturalised in south-eastern Queensland in recent years. There have only been a few herbarium records of naturalised plants from the Sunshine Coast/Wide Bay area in the last 5 years. However, numerous sightings of younger plants have also been made in other parts of south-eastern Queensland (i.e. in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast).

Description

Himalayan ash is a small tree usually growing less than 10 m tall, and unlike most other ash trees it does not lose its leaves during winter (i.e. it is evergreen). The main trunks of older trees are covered in a mottled green, brown and cream bark. Its leaves (10-25 cm long) are arranged in pairs along the stems and are borne on stalks 3-8 cm long. They are compound, with 5-11 leaflets, and these bright green and glossy leaflets (2-10 cm long and 1-5 cm wide) have entire margins and pointed tips. However, seedlings have almost rounded leaflets and their leaf stalks are slightly winged.

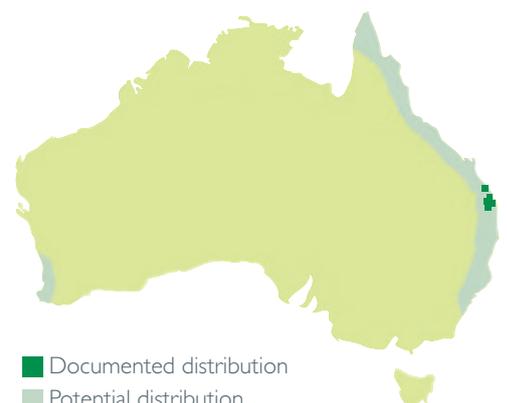
The small white flowers are arranged in branched clusters (10-25 cm long) at the tips of the stems. They have four tiny sepals (about 1 mm long), four white petals (about 2 mm long) and two yellow stamens. Flowering occurs mainly during summer (i.e. from December to February in Brisbane). The winged fruit (i.e. samaras) are initially green, but turn pinkish and then brown as they mature. These fruit (about 2.5-4 cm long and 4-5 mm wide) contain a single seed and are mainly present during summer and autumn (i.e. from January to May).

Quick Facts

- > A small tree growing up to 10 m tall
- > Compound leaves with 5-11 leaflets
- > Tiny white flowers borne in dense clusters
- > Seeds with a papery wing 2.5-4 cm long

Habitat

This species is a potential weed of urban bushland, forest margins, riparian vegetation, open woodlands, roadsides and disturbed sites. Most young plants have been found growing along waterways, near the margins of urban bushland areas, or along internal roads or tracks within bushland reserves.





1. Young Himalayan ash tree growing in bushland area. 2. Mottled bark on main trunk.

Reproduction and Dispersal

Himalayan ash reproduces mainly by seed, but will also spread laterally via root suckers. The winged seeds are mainly dispersed short distances by wind in the first instance, but can also be spread longer distances by water or in dumped garden waste.

Why is it an Emerging Threat?

Large numbers of seedlings are often seen growing under adult trees of this species, and its windblown seeds are easily dispersed into nearby natural habitats. For example, at Maleny on the Sunshine Coast it has been recorded spreading from plantings into nearby rainforest areas. It has also been observed growing in shaded riparian habitats along Enoggera Creek in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. Once it becomes established in these areas, it has the potential to compete with and replace native species.

Control Methods

Seedlings and younger plants can be removed by hand. Larger plants can be manually removed with the aid of suitable tools, but attention must be taken to remove the entire crown.

There is no information readily available on the control of Himalayan ash with herbicides. However, woody environmental weeds are able to be controlled in Queensland with some herbicides as outlined in APVMA off-label Permit 11463 (see <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PERI1463.PDF>). For example, triclopyr + picloram, fluroxypyr and 2,4-D may be applied as a foliar spray directly to the target plants. Alternatively, other formulations of these same chemicals and formulations of Glyphosate can be applied as a cut stump or basal bark application. However, plants growing along waterways should only be controlled with herbicides that have an aquatic registration (e.g. Round-up Biactive or Weedmaster Duo). Please read the off-label permit carefully for the exact products and rates to use and, unless otherwise stated in the permit, the use of any of these herbicides must be in accordance with the instructions on their labels. Within other state boundaries, it is recommended that any relevant permits or government legislation applicable to the region be consulted.

Look a-likes

Himalayan ash is similar to another weedy introduced species known as narrow-leaved ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia*). However, the leaves of Narrow-leaved ash have toothed margins and are shed during winter (i.e. it is deciduous). This species is also mainly found in the temperate regions of southern Australia.



Top. Habit of Narrow-leaved ash.

Bottom. Narrow leaflets with toothed margins.

The control methods referred to in Weed Watch™ should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, Technigro does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

This information has been developed with the assistance of Dr Sheldon Navie. Photographs are also courtesy of Dr Sheldon Navie © Technigro Australia Pty Ltd 2012