

Myrtle-leaf milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia

Environmental Weed

FLOWERS:

Produces an abundance of 2 to 3cm long pinkish-purple pea-like flowers in clusters at ends of branchlets. Peak flowering period is from spring to summer (Sept to Oct) but can flower all year round.

LEAVES:

Thin, oval leaves, 2-5cm long and up to 13mm wide arranged alternately and have entire margins.

STEMS:

Stems are purplish with short hairs when young. Smooth and woody when older.

SEED:

Two seeded oval, brown, capsule which is narrowly winged about 10mm long. Germinates prolifically after disturbance such as fire and following soil or canopy disturbance. Seeds are able to germinate throughout the year. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for two to three years.

LIFECYCLE:

An evergreen shrub that reaches a height of 1.25 to 2m, and maintains a tight, spherical canopy.

CONTROL:

Non-chemical control: Hand pulling small juvenile plants.

Chemical control:

- Cut and paint,
- Spray

(ALL herbicide applications should be carried out as stated within the manufacturers guidelines and the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets.)