

Sweet Pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum



Photo: D. Blair

Photo: V. Freshwater

Radiata Pine

Pinus radiata



Photos: E Campbell

Radiata Pine

- *Pinus radiata*



Common Name: Radiata or Monterey Pine

Scientific Name: *Pinus radiata*

Origin: Native to North America

Size: Radiata Pine is a tall evergreen, softwood tree that can grow to 40 metres.

Foliage: It has dark green needle like leaves in groups of threes (rarely 2) in dense clusters along stems. Most "Christmas trees" sold fresh in the festive season are Radiata Pine.

Flowers: It bears cones and does not flower.

Fruit: Seed bearing cones are produced which take 2-3 years to mature and last several years.

How it spreads

The cone opens in dry weather throughout the year and the winged seeds are dispersed by wind. They can be blown a considerable distance from the parent tree. Cockatoos also drop seed when they tear apart cones to get at the seed inside.



Young Radiata Pine
Photo: S. Meacher



Sweet Pittosporum

- *Pittosporum undulatum*



Common Name: Sweet Pittosporum

Scientific Name: *Pittosporum undulatum*

Origin: East Gippsland, Australia.

Size: Sweet Pittosporum is a large bushy tree that can grow to 10m or more.

Foliage: Leaves are glossy dark green and paler beneath with a distinctive wavy (undulating) edge.

Flowers: Between September and December. Flowers occur in clusters and are creamy white and bell shaped, with a sweet fragrance.

Fruit: The fruits are hard green capsules, turning orange when ripe. They split, to expose 20 -30 sticky orange-red seeds.



How it spreads

This is the most wide-spread woody weed in the Shire. Its seeds are mainly spread by birds, possums and occasionally by foxes. They may be eaten and pass through the digestive system or stick to feet and feathers. They can also be transported in dumped garden waste and soil.

Not to be confused with:



Muttonwood (*Rapanea howittiana*) which has similar leaves to Sweet Pittosporum but has violet berries and small green flowers.

Wild Tobacco Tree

- *Solanum mauritianum*



Photo: E Campbell

Holly

- *Ilex aquifolium*

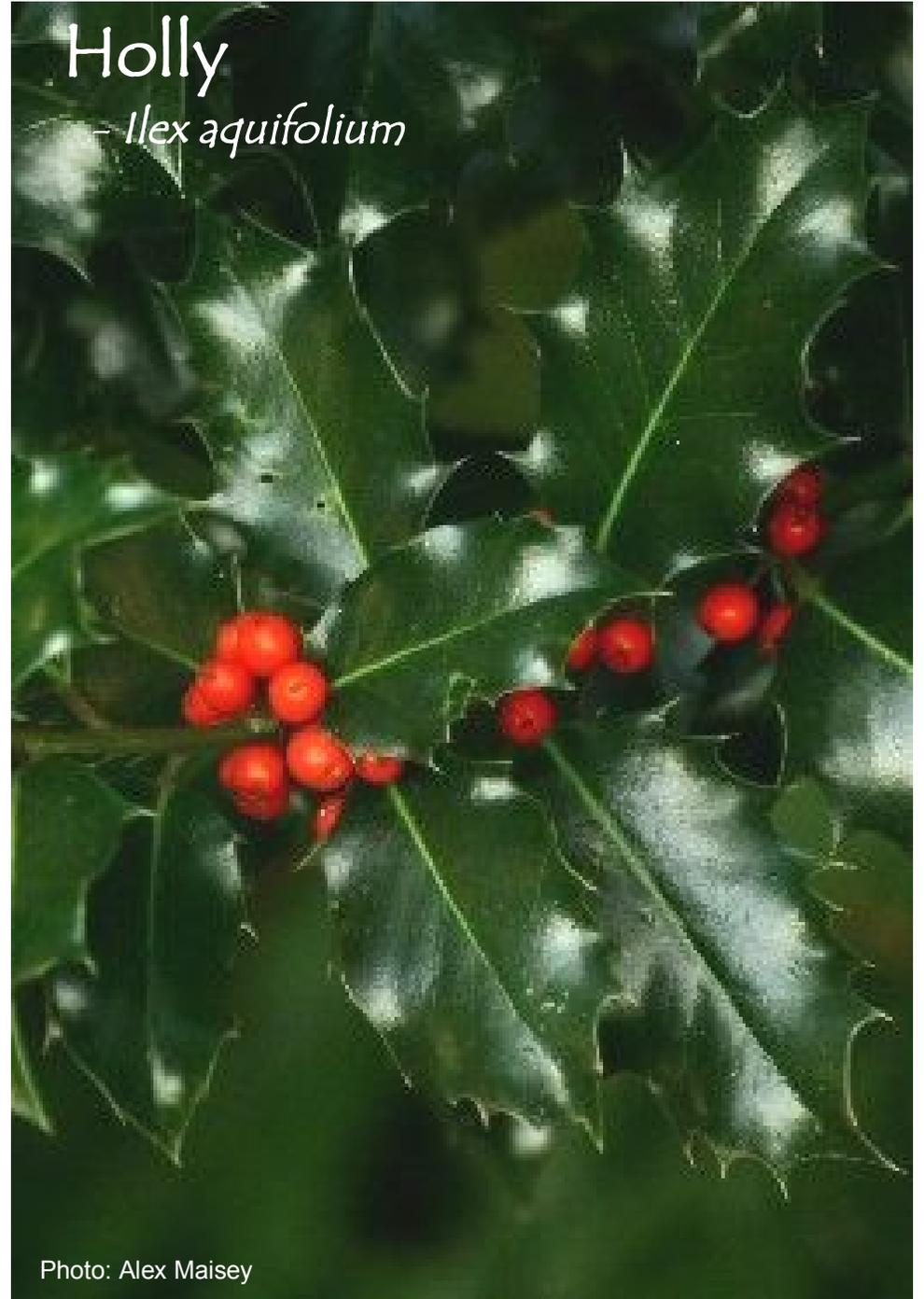


Photo: Alex Maisey

Holly

- *Ilex aquifolium*



Common Name: Holly
Scientific Name: *Ilex aquifolium*

Origin: Native to Europe.
Size: Grows slowly into a large shrub or small tree.
Foliage: The stiff leaves have several sharp spikes around the edges. They are glossy dark green on top and a pale dull green beneath.
Flowers: Flowers with pinkish clusters in late spring-early summer
Fruit: Hard, bright red berries during autumn

How it spreads

Spread by birds which eat the red berries and pass the seeds. Will also germinate from berries dumped as garden waste. Seeds may take three to 12 months to germinate. When low branches touch the ground, they can take root, forming dense stands. A mature holly will produce many seeds, which will germinate around the mature tree

Not to be confused with:

There is a native plant called Holly Leaf Lomatia (*Lomatia ilicifolia*) but the leaves are quite different in appearance compared to Holly.



Wild Tobacco Tree

- *Solanum mauritianum*



Common Name: Wild Tobacco Tree
Scientific Name: *Solanum mauritianum*

Origin: Native to South America.
Size: The plant grows very quickly into an open branched large shrub or small tree up to 4 metres tall.
Foliage: The leaves are highly distinctive - long (to 30cm), light green with obviously furry surface on the top and underside of the leaf. The smaller branches are also furry.
Flowers: The clusters of purple flowers appear throughout the year .
Fruit: The grape-like fruits are green at first and turn dark yellow when ripe. Fruits year-round.

How it spreads

The fruits of this plant are eaten by birds, bats and possums and seeds can be spread over long distances.

Not to be confused with:

Many *Solanum* species have similar star-shaped flowers with prominent yellow stamens.

Note: This poisonous plant is closely related to the Night-shades. The fine hairs can irritate your eyes and throat. Wear a breathing-mask and goggles when handling.





Sycamore Maple
- *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Photos: S. Meacher



Cootamundra Wattle
- *Acacia baileyana*

Photo: M. White

Cootamundra Wattle

- *Acacia baileyana*



Common Name: Cootamundra Wattle

Scientific Name: *Acacia baileyana*

Origin: Native to small region of southern NSW, Australia.

Size: Small, evergreen, spreading tree or large bushy shrub to 10m tall.

Foliage: The feathery leaves are silvery-blue-green and divided into only 3-4 pairs of pinnae, the lowest pair embracing the stem.

Flowers: The bright yellow fluffy flowers, carried on spikes, appear from June to September.

Fruit: The flattish seed pods are hard-coated, straight or slightly curved.

How it spreads

The seeds are spread by wind, water, cockatoos (which open the pods and drop seeds) and even ants, over short distances. The seeds survive up to many years in the soil, germinating after disturbance, especially fire.

Not to be confused with:

Several wattles are native to the Shire. Of those with feathery leaves the Black Wattle (*A. mearnsii*) has dark-green leaves, pale flowers and pods with constrictions between the seeds, while the Silver Wattle (*A. dealbata*) has grey-green foliage divided into 8-20 pairs of pinnae and may grow to 30m.



Sycamore Maple

- *Acer pseudoplatanus*



Common Name: Sycamore Maple

Scientific Name: *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Origin: Native to Europe.

Size: A fast-growing deciduous tree, up to 20m.

Foliage: Has lobed dark-green leaves, light-green to purple beneath, that turn yellow before falling in autumn. The smooth grey bark becomes scaly and reddish at maturity.

Flowers: Small, yellowish flowers appear in late spring.

Fruit: Produces winged seeds in summer that are usually reddish and are arranged in pairs, making a boomerang shape.



Sycamore maple leaves and flowers

How it spreads

When ripe the seed pairs separate, spinning rapidly as they fall. These “helicopters” fall slowly and can travel considerable distances on the wind. Each tree can produce up to 10,000 seeds every year. Wind, water, mulch and soil easily carry the seed.



Not to be confused with:

There are many other exotic garden varieties of Maple and Plane (*Platanus spp.*) trees with similar shaped leaves.