

4. Darwin's barberry

Berberis darwinii



What is Darwin's barberry?

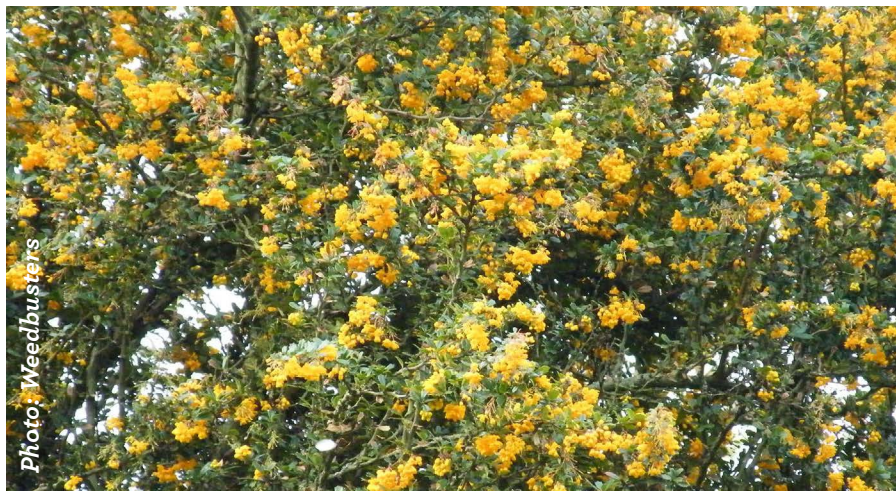
Darwin's barberry is an invasive weed that invades forests, stream-sides (riparian areas) and farmland. It is an evergreen shrub that can grow to 4 to 5 metres high.

Why is Darwin's barberry a problem for NZ?

This weed can take over areas, stopping native plants from growing.

Weeds change the habitat for native animals, making it more difficult for them to survive.

Darwin's barberry also causes problems for the forestry industry.



How do I know it's Darwin's barberry?

It has shiny, smooth leaves that have toothed edges. They are hard and spiky. The flowers are yellow and grow in bunches. Berries start to appear early in summer. They are green at first and then become purple-white.



Unripe berries

How does it spread?

This weed spreads easily when birds and other animals like possums eat the seeds and carry them to other places through their droppings. Seeds can also be spread by soil and water.

Darwin's barberry comes from Chile and Argentina.



Ripe berries

For more detailed information about Darwin's barberry and how to control its spread see: weedbusters.org.nz