

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower cluster. Photographer Malcolm Storey, England



Flowering branches. Photographer Jackie Miles



Branches with ripe fruit. Photographer Jackie Miles

Common name

European Privet

Family

Oleaceae

Where found

Native bushland, **woodland**, grassy areas, disturbed areas, rocky sites, and along streams. Sydney area, tablelands, and Canberra. Occasionally elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced shrub to about 5 m high, **deciduous** or partly deciduous. Fruit fleshy. Bark smooth. Stems finely hairy when young. Older stems with white **lenticels**. Leaves opposite each other, 2–6 cm long, 8–25 mm wide, surfaces hairless, green, shiny. Flowers strongly scented with a pungent smell that many people find unpleasant. Flowers white or cream with white **anthers**, 1–5 mm long, tubular, with 4 lobes 1.5–5 mm long. Flowers in dense branched clusters 3–8 cm long. Flowers spring. Fruit shiny blue-black to black when ripe, oval to round, 3–10 mm long. Some varieties have green, white or yellow fruit when ripe.

General Biosecurity Duty all NSW. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions in the Central Tablelands, NSW.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Ligustrum~vulgare> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

Author: Betty Wood.

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