

# Seen this plant? Kei Apple

*Dovyalis caffra*



## How does this weed affect us?

Kei apple (pronounced Kye) is a drought and frost hardy shrub from southern Africa that has become a serious weed in western Sydney. It produces yellow fruit the size and colour of small apricots and has formidable thorns along its stems. Kei poses a range of risks to people and the environment:

- thorns cause serious injury and infection in people, stock and companion animals
- Kei Apple is allelopathic, releasing hormones which kill surrounding plants and groundcovers
- left uncontrolled Kei Apple grows into a dense monoculture replacing all other vegetation
- plants provide harbor for foxes, rabbits and other pest animals
- Kei Apple destroys bushland including endangered ecosystems and species

**Seen it? Call us:**

Greater Sydney Local  
Land Services

(02) 4724 2100

**Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.**

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW  
WeedWise: [weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/KeiApple](https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/KeiApple)





### Where are you likely to find it?

Kei Apple is found on farms and bushland on sandy or shale soils scattered across Western Sydney. It is also a major weed in south-east Qld.

### What does it look like?

Kei Apple is a shrub /small tree 3-5m. Leaves are 2-5cm long by 1-3cm wide, dark green and waxy with 3-5 prominent veins on both sides. Young branches have a drooping habit and are heavily armed with long spines to 7cm in length. Flowers (early summer) are small and inconspicuous with male and female on separate plants. Fruit is yellow or orange 2.5-4 cm in diameter.

### What should I do if I think I have Kei Apple?

Kei Apple is causing serious harm to people, livestock and the environment in Greater Sydney.

The *Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan & Biosecurity Act 2015* prohibits the sale or growth of Kei Apple and requires landowners to eradicate plants on their land. Penalties apply.

We are working with landowners to help eradicate this plant. If you think you may have Kei Apple please contact us **before controlling plants**. In most cases advice and removal of plants can be provided for landowners at no cost.

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