

Plant of the Week

Native Daphne *Pittosporum undulatum*

If you have been out walking recently, either in the bush or through leafy suburbs of Sydney, you will be aware of a heady scent that fills the air. This lovely perfume comes from **Native Daphne** (*Pittosporum undulatum*). Sometimes it grows as a tall shrub, sometimes a low spreading tree. It is widespread in the gullies of the New South Wales and Queensland coast and ranges.



Native Daphne
Pittosporum undulatum

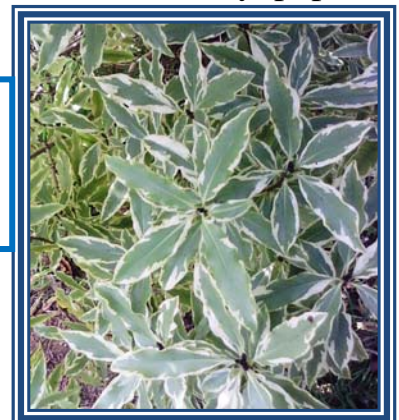
But it isn't always welcome. Changes to fire regimes following European settlement have meant that Native Daphne is extending its range, colonizing hillsides and ridge tops and shading out species needing high light levels for their survival. Often bushland regenerators treat Native Daphne in much the same way as they treat Large and Small Leafed Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum* and *L. sinense*), removing it wherever possible. Even the bushland regenerating team working on campus judiciously removes seedlings from the patch of remnant bushland near the lake. And it isn't just a problem here; it has also become naturalized in South Australia and Tasmania, in various Caribbean islands, on the Hawaiian Islands, in Brazil and the Azores.

There are about 14 species of *Pittosporum* in Australia but others can be found in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands and New Zealand. Varieties of the New Zealand species *P. tenuifolium* (**Kohuhu**) and *P. eugenioides* (**Tarata**) are very popular garden plants in Australia.



Pittosporum revolutum
Yellow Pittosporum or Wild Yellow Jasmine
Look for this shrub now flowering in your local bushland.

Pittosporum eugenioides
'Variegatum'
Tarata or Lemonwood from
New Zealand



A.J. Downing & K.D. Downing, 12.09.2010
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