

North Rothbury Persoonia

HABITAT MANAGEMENT GUIDE
for the



• fleshy light green to yellow fruit



• small yellow flowers



• bark is smooth and grey



• small spreading shrub

Identification

This small bright green shrub has yellow flowers and light green to yellow fruit and can be readily distinguished from similar plants by its smooth bark.



The leaves are often strikingly bright green or lime in comparison to the surrounding vegetation.

Further information and advice

Free site inspections are available in the North Rothbury area in 2011, providing site specific advice and an overview of available resources and incentives.

Further information, resources or site inspection bookings are available through the Office of Environment and Heritage.

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North Rothbury Persoonia (*Persoonia pauciflora*)



Critically Endangered

The Critically Endangered North Rothbury grows only within a small area near North Rothbury within the Cessnock City Council Local Government Area. Only around **350 plants** are known to remain, with most occurring on **private property** or **along road verges**.

These habitat management guidelines provide advice for landholders who wish to manage bushland areas on their property for the protection of North Rothbury Persoonia.

RECOVERY

The North Rothbury Persoonia is at great risk of extinction. The Office of Environment and Heritage is coordinating an active recovery program to ensure the long-term survival of the North Rothbury Persoonia in the wild.

A Recovery Plan has been prepared identifying actions required.

Actions implemented include:

- targeted survey
- research into seed biology and propagation
- weed control
- habitat protection
- community education and awareness.

An important component of the recovery program is facilitating habitat management and protection on private property.



ECOLOGY

Knowledge of the general ecology of the North Rothbury Persoonia helps us to understand the environmental conditions needed to ensure its survival.

- Peak flowering is in warmer months, with sporadic flowering all year round.
- Fruit is a drupe with a pulpy flesh surrounding a single hard woody seed.
- Fruit matures on the plant for many months. Large birds, kangaroos, wallabies and possums may eat and disperse fruit to new locations, otherwise ripe fruits fall beneath the parent plant.
- Seed can remain viable in the soil for many years.
- Plants are killed by fire and other forms of physical disturbance such as slashing and grazing.
- Plants mature at around 1½ – 3 years and are thought to have a short lifespan of around 7 – 12 years.
- Little is understood about what triggers seed germination, although observations indicate it may be facilitated by good rain.



MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Any vegetation within the North Rothbury region can contribute to the conservation of North Rothbury Persoonia by:

- minimising habitat fragmentation
- helping wildlife move between sub-populations, therefore facilitating vital seed dispersal.

How to manage bushland on your property for the conservation of North Rothbury Persoonia

Minimise disturbance

- Identify the area you wish to manage as North Rothbury Persoonia habitat and exclude disturbances such as grazing, slashing or mowing.

Control weeds

- Weeds can displace adult plants and prevent the establishment of seedlings.

Consider the big picture

- When maintaining or re-vegetating bushland consider areas which will improve habitat connectivity across the landscape.

