

Boneseed

(bitou bush) *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

Is Boneseed on your property?

Boneseed is included in our Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Containment plant. This means that within a defined control area the pest plant species will be controlled wherever it is found. The focus of control is placed where infestations are low or where the pest plant in question poses a high risk. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.



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Identification

Bushy, semi-woody, much branched shrub or small tree to 2-3 m. Young stems ribbed and woolly, becoming smooth. Leaves alternate, smooth, leathery, entire, 70 x 35 mm, margins irregularly toothed. Bright yellow daisy-like flowers, 25-30 mm diameter, September - February. Fruit an oval green drupe, 6-9mm, hard with thin fleshy covering, turning black, with very hard seed.

Weedy characteristics

Tolerates most coastal soil types, salt, fire, wind, poor soils, drought. Fast growing and maturing, long-lived. Seeds many, high viability, probably long lived. Forms dense stands, excluding most other plants.

Methods of dispersal

Seeds dispersed by birds, possums, falling down cliffs, in flotsam, and possibly livestock. Coastal gardens. Though the seed is large it has spread to offshore islands.

Impact on indigenous plants

Rapidly replaces virtually all native species under 2m, prevents regeneration. Creates heavy shade where high light levels should occur. Colonises disturbed sites faster than native species.

Typical habitats

All coastal areas, e.g. cliffs, sand dunes, estuary margins, roadsides, inshore islands.

Control

1. Hand pull all but the largest plants (not when in seed). Mulch. All year round.
2. Stump swab: Escort, 1 g/L; or glyphosate, 10%; or Vigilant gel. All year round.
3. Spray: Tordon Brushkiller XT 0.6% + penetrant.

Site Management

Clear from adjacent coastal gardens to remove seed sources. Begin control at top of site, work along contours to prevent erosion and minimise reinfestation from above. Easiest during spring flowering when visible. Follow up 6-monthly. Encourage regeneration of native plants by densely replanting cleared areas where necessary. Exclude livestock, prevent fire, maintain possum control and minimise soil disturbance.

Species recovery after management

Mechanical clearance causing soil disturbance and bare ground after spraying both lead to increased seedling regrowth. Germinates freely after fire.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

