



This weed invades Australia's coastline

Have you seen this plant?



BITOU BUSH

Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotundata

is a Weed Of National Significance (WONS)

Why Is Bitou Bush A Problem?

Bitou bush is one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its environmental impacts, invasive ability and potential to spread.

Bitou bush is a South African shrub that was planted in eastern Australia between 1946 and 1968 to revegetate coastal areas after sand mining. Bitou bush has no natural enemies in Australia and has spread to become a damaging environmental weed.



Bitou bush invades coastal habitats, forming thickets that smother native plants and prevent regeneration. In NSW alone, bitou bush threatens more than 150 native plant species, 3 endangered plant populations and 26 ecological communities.

Bitou bush:

- Alters habitat and displaces food plants of native birds and animals
- Survives in a wide range of habitats from exposed coastal dunes to shaded forests
- Degrades coastal environments and can restrict access to beaches, parks and trails.

Where Is It And How Does It Spread?

Bitou bush has invaded over 80% of the NSW coastline and has the potential to spread to coastal Victoria and Queensland (see map). An eradication program in QLD, and containment lines in northern and southern NSW aim to prevent further spread.

Bitou bush reproduces by seeds that are spread by birds and other animals, as well as by fresh or salt water, in dumped garden waste, and on vehicles and equipment. Plants produce a vast amount of seed that germinates readily.



BITOU BUSH

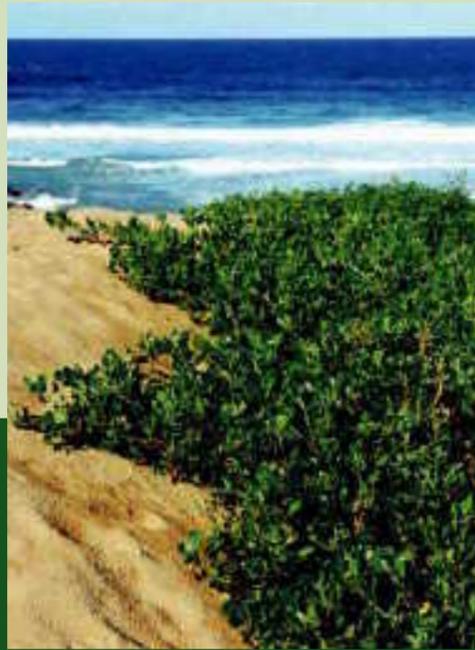
Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. *rotundata*

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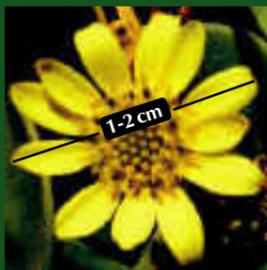
What Does Bitou Bush Look Like?

Bitou bush is a sprawling, woody evergreen shrub growing to 2 meters (but grows much higher if supported by other vegetation). The fleshy leaves are rounded, taper at the base and may have small 'teeth' on the margins. Young leaves are often covered with a white cottony down. The bright yellow daisy flowers have 11-13 'petals' (ray florets) and grow in clusters at branch tips. Fruits are green berries that ripen to black. Each fruit contains one hard, dark brown, egg-shaped seed.

- Bitou bush can flower year-round, but peaks in April to June.
- Bitou bush is very hardy and withstands salt spray.



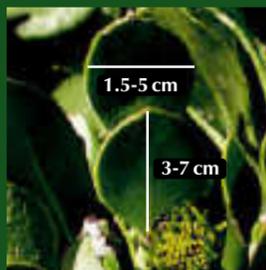
Bitou Bush invading coastal dunes (G. Sanders); Inset photos H. Cherry



Flowers



Fruits



Leaves

**These weeds threaten our native vegetation!
Please control them and prevent their spread**

What Can You Do About The Bitou Bush Problem?

Bitou bush is a noxious weed in NSW and a Class One weed in QLD and must not be sold, propagated or distributed. Occupiers of land must control bitou bush on their property (contact your council for local requirements).

Please ensure you do not have bitou bush or boneseed on your property, as they can spread easily to native bush. For control information, contact your local council weeds officer or see the bitou bush weed management guide at www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/wons.htm

National Parks, local councils and government agencies in NSW and QLD are actively involved in bitou bush control. Biological control agents, such as the leaf-rolling moth and the bitou seed fly, have been introduced to slow the spread of bitou bush. In addition, hundreds of volunteer groups are working hard to control bitou bush and reclaim our native coastal landscapes.

You can join a local Coastcare or Landcare group and help remove bitou bush from your area. See www.landcarensw.org for local groups and contact information. You can also contact your local council or national parks officer to get involved.

The Weeds Australia website - www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm - contains further information regarding bitou bush, boneseed and other Weeds of National Significance.

BONESEED

Current and potential distribution of Boneseed in NSW.



BONESEED, a close relative of bitou bush, is also a serious threat to NSW. Boneseed is an *erect* shrub with *less rounded* and *more toothed* leaves than bitou bush. Boneseed flowers have *only 3-8 'petals'* and seeds are bone-coloured.

