



# BONESEED

*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*

is a Weed Of National Significance (WONS)

## Why Is Boneseed A Problem?

**B**oneseed is one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its environmental impacts, invasive ability, and serious potential to spread.

Boneseed, a South African shrub, was introduced to Australia as a garden plant in the late 1800s. This fast growing, aggressive plant has no natural enemies in Australia, and it has spread from gardens to become a damaging environmental weed.



**B**oneseed invades native bushland and forms dense thickets that smother native plants and prevent regeneration. In NSW, boneseed threatens endangered plants and ecological communities, such as the Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, and many more are at risk if boneseed continues to spread. Boneseed:

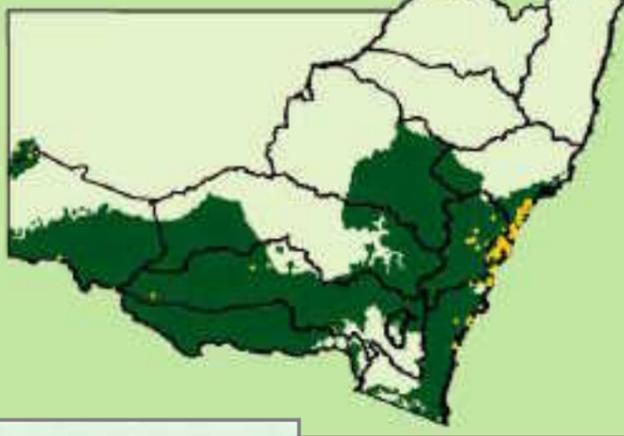
- invades dunes, coastal areas, woodlands, scrub, heathland, riparian areas, sclerophyll forest and mallee;
- grows in most soil types and tolerates a wide range of climates;
- rapidly colonises after disturbance such as clearing or burning;
- alters habitat and displaces food plants of native birds and animals;
- replace native nectar plants important to bee-keepers; and
- can restrict access to beaches, parks, and trails.

## Where Is It And How Does It Spread?

**B**oneseed has invaded coastal and inland regions of NSW and, if not controlled, it has the potential to spread throughout large portions of the state (see maps).

Boneseed reproduces by seeds that are spread into bushland by birds, rabbits, foxes, livestock and other animals. Seeds can also spread via fresh or salt water, in soil or dumped garden waste, and on vehicles and equipment. Plants produce enormous amounts of seed (up to 50,000 seeds per plant!) that germinate readily.

### Current and potential distribution of Boneseed in NSW



- Current distribution
- Potential distribution

Current and potential national distribution of Boneseed

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## What Does Boneseed Look Like?

Boneseed is an erect, woody, evergreen shrub growing to 2-3 m (or taller). The fleshy leaves are an elongated oval shape with toothed edges. Young leaves are rounder, and often covered with a white cottony down. The bright yellow, daisy flowers have 5-8 'petals' and grow in clusters at branch tips. Fruits are round, green berries that ripen to black. Each fruit contains one smooth, hard, bone-coloured seed.

- Boneseed is highly adaptable, very hardy and can withstand salt spray.
- Boneseed flowers in late winter and spring (July – Nov) and is very conspicuous when flowering.



Flowers

Fruits

Leaves



Boneseed invasion in You Yangs Ranges, Victoria, N. Titsas; Inset photos H. Cherry

**These weeds threaten native vegetation!  
Please control them on your land!**

## What Can You Do About The Boneseed Problem?

Boneseed and bitou bush are declared noxious weeds in NSW and must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. Occupiers of land must control boneseed on their property (contact your council for specific local requirements). If you see boneseed in your area, please report the infestation to your local weeds officer.

Please ensure you do not have boneseed in your garden or on your property, as it can spread easily to native bush.

- Destroy new infestations before they flower or set seed. Shallow roots make boneseed easy to hand-pull or dig up when small. Non-fruiting plants can be left to decompose as long as roots are not near the soil surface. Bag fruiting plants and dispose of them at the tip.
- Larger plants can be cut down and herbicide applied to stumps immediately after cutting. Follow all herbicide label directions (see links below or contact your local council for more information)
- When large plants are removed, new seedlings will sprout from the seedbank and should be hand-pulled immediately.



Bitou Bush

Boneseed is easily mistaken for the closely-related bitou bush. Bitou bush has invaded over 80% of the NSW coast, where it directly threatens over 100 coastal plant species and communities. Bitou bush is a *sprawling* shrub with more *rounded, less-toothed leaves*. The flowers of bitou bush have *more 'petals'* (11-13) than boneseed.

## More Information?

See - Boneseed Weed Management Guide at: [www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg\\_boneseed.pdf](http://www.weeds.crc.org.au/documents/wmg_boneseed.pdf)

If you have boneseed in your garden or on your property, contact your local council weed officer to discuss control options.

You can join a local Landcare or Coastcare group and help remove boneseed and bitou bush from your area. See [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/) for local groups and contact information.

The Weeds Australia website - [www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm](http://www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm) - contains further information regarding boneseed and other Weeds of National Significance.



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