



BONESEED

Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. *monilifera*

is a Weed Of National Significance (WONS)

Why Is Boneseed A Problem?

Boneseed 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.



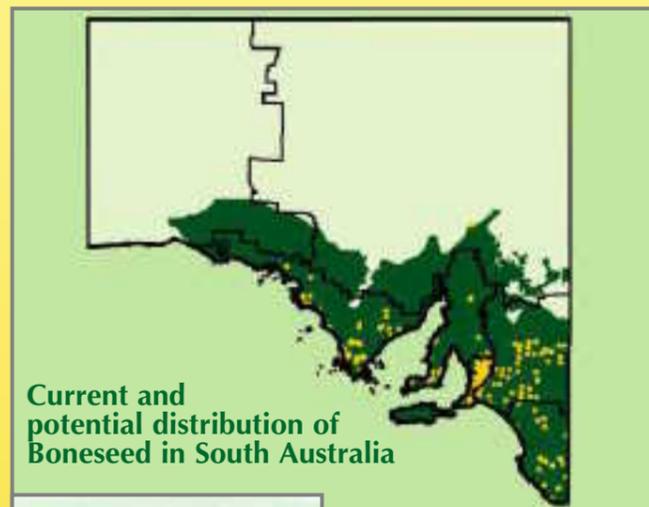
Boneseed invades native bushland and forms dense thickets that smother native plants and prevent regeneration. In South Australia, boneseed endangers threatened plants and ecological communities, and many more may be at risk if boneseed continues to spread. Boneseed:

- 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;
- replaces native nectar plants important to bee-keepers; and
- can restrict access to beaches, parks, and trails.

Where Is It And How Does It Spread?

Boneseed has invaded many areas of South Australia and, if not controlled, it has the potential to spread throughout most southern regions 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 distribution
- Potential distribution

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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.



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

What Can You Do About The Boneseed Problem?

Boneseed is a proclaimed weed in South Australia and must not be sold, transported or traded. Property owners are required to control boneseed on their property. If you see boneseed in your area, please report the infestation to your local pest plant 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 (contact your regional NRM board or council for more information).
- When large plants are removed, new seedlings will sprout from the seedbank and should be hand-pulled immediately.

You can join a local Landcare or Coastcare group and help remove boneseed from your area.
See - www.landcares.org.au/ - for local contacts, or phone Landcare General Inquires on 1800-818-467.

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

Boneseed invading native mallee woodland in South Australia, N. Zeoli/MMLAP. Inset photos H. Cherry

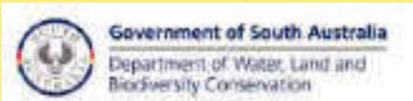
More Information?

See - Boneseed Control Notes at:
www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/pests/weeds/plant_id.html

If you have boneseed in your garden or on your property, contact the pest plant officer at your regional NRM board to discuss control options.



Australian Government



Government of South Australia
Department of Water, Land and
Biodiversity Conservation

