

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?



BONESEED

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 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.

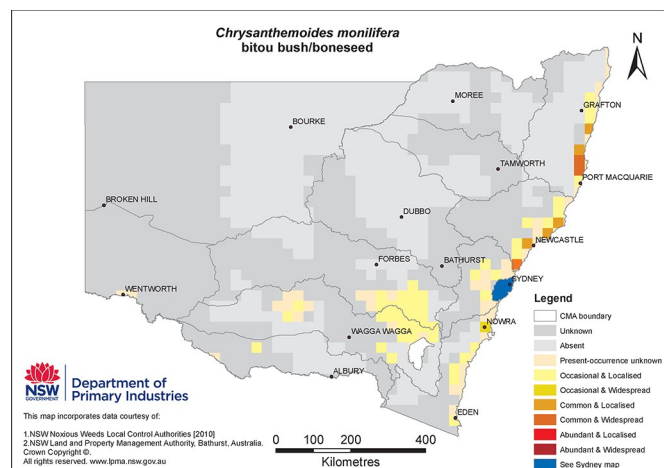
Boneseed:

- 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?

Boneseed has invaded coastal and inland regions of NSW and if not controlled, it has the potential to spread throughout large portions of the state, including the Illawarra.

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



What environment does it grow in?

Boneseed prefers sandy or medium textured soils and tolerates salty **conditions**, therefore thriving in coastal **conditions**. However it **can grow** in a range of habitats including dunes, mallee, open woodlands and sclerophyll forests, preferring winter rainfall regions. Boneseed thrives in disturbed situations and is well adapted to fire, although young plants are frost sensitive and it does not tolerate waterlogged soil or prolonged drought.



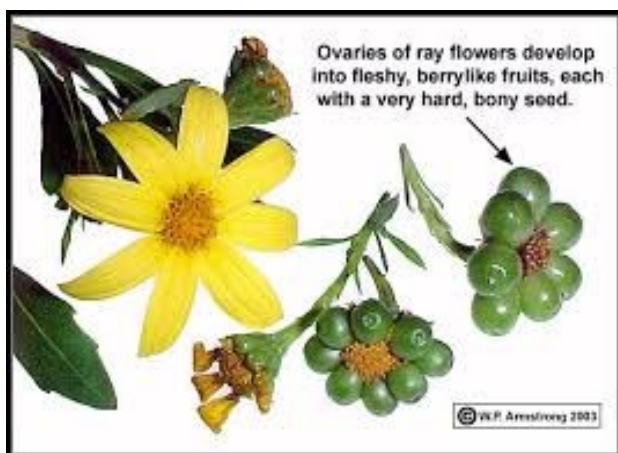
BONESEED

Weed of National Significance

What does it look like?

Boneseed is an erect, woody, evergreen shrub growing to 2-3 metres 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 flowers in late winter and spring (July–November) and is very conspicuous when flowering.



Remember

- Boneseed on your property can easily spread to nearby native bush if not controlled
- Hand pull seedlings before they flower and set seed
- Larger plants can be cut down and herbicide applied to the stumps after cutting or they can be foliar sprayed with a registered herbicide. Always follow all herbicide label directions
- New seedlings may sprout from the seedbank and should be hand pulled immediately
- Implement a long term weed management plan to eventually eradicate. Work with your neighbours to maximise effectiveness and reduce ongoing spread.

Prevent Boneseed spread

Boneseed is listed as a State Priority Weed with an eradication objective. It must not be sold or imported into NSW.

Owners and occupiers of land must control the weed on their property. If you see boneseed in your local area, please report to your local weeds officer.



Seen it?

Call IDWA on 4233 1129

<https://isjo.org.au/idwa>