

## WEED FILE:

# BONESEED



### DESCRIPTION

Boneseed : *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

Boneseed is another pesky import, originally as a garden plant, but now a growing pest especially in coastal sites. It is originally from the Cape Province of South Africa.

It's a bushy shrub with many branches, and reaches between 2 and 3 metres in height. Once established on a site, boneseed will form very dense thickets that displace native vegetation, and also make human access very difficult.

Flowers are bright yellow, daisy-like and the flowers heavily cover the bush in the September to February period.

The fruit is spherical, about 8mm in diameter, and is initially green. It becomes black and more rounded as it develops. The outer fruit covering flakes away as it ripens, exposing a single whitish seed that is very hard (hence the name boneseed).

The seed is spread by birds, water and soil movement. A mature bush produces many thousands of viable seeds annually, and the seeds can remain dormant for 10 years before germinating. This means that complete eradication will be a multi-year project.

Leaves are green, smooth and leathery, and oval in shape. They're about 7cm long by 3.5cm wide, with bluntish pointed tips.

Stems are ribbed and tough, and become smooth with maturity.

Boneseed prefers coastal sites, roadsides, native scrubland and waste areas. It does not tolerate well sites that are shaded or soils that are wet.

Distribution is throughout coastal North Island, and the north and east margins

of the South Island.

Boneseed is subject to Pest Plant Management Strategies in several regions of NZ, and its sale or propagation is prohibited throughout the country.

### HERBICIDE CONTROL

#### Stump Swabbing

Cut the stems as close as possible to the ground and remove all cut material from the stump. Swab the freshly cut surface and sides of each stump using a hand sprayer or a paintbrush. Herbicide choices are:

- **Glyphosate 360** at 1 part to 4 parts water, or **Granny** at 1 part to 6 parts water.
- **GrassMate** at 1 part to 20 parts water (i.e. 50ml/L)
- **MSF600** at 5g/L of water plus **SuperWetter** at 10ml/L.

#### Spraying

This is most suitable for smaller plants where reasonable access for overall spraying is available.

- **Glyphosate** at 100ml/10L water, or **Granny** at 45g/10L water, in both cases with **SuperWetter** at 20ml/10L water.
- **MSF600** at 5g/10L water plus 20ml **SuperWetter**.
- **GrassMate** at 60ml/10L water plus 20ml **SuperWetter**.

Once boneseed is initially treated and controlled successfully on a site, some follow up treatments will be necessary. Subsequently, the planting of dense and shady natives on the site will minimise future boneseed germination from the soil seed bank.

