



## **Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp monilifera**    SEPTEMBER 2008 **BONESEED**

Along with its close relative Bitou Bush, Boneseed is a Weed of National Significance. It is a woody, erect shrub or small tree that forms dense infestations. Of particular concern is its ability to invade pristine bushland.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Boneseed usually grows to about 3 m tall, and up to 6 m in width.

- **Stems** are green (sometimes tinged reddish-purple when young) maturing to 10 cm trunk covered with pale grey bark.
- **Leaves** are oval with a tapering base, toothed edges, 3-9 cm long, 2-5 cm wide.
- **Flowers** are bright yellow and daisy shaped. They grow in clusters at branch tips, have 5-8 petals, and are 1.5-3 cm in diameter. Flowering begins in July and peaks September-October.
- **Fruit** is berry-like, 8 mm diameter, fleshy green becoming dark brown to black. It matures over spring-summer and contains one seed.
- **Seeds** are 6-8mm diameter, oval, smooth, light brown, drying to become hard and white.

### **EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Boneseed invades and eliminates native vegetation to form dense stands and produces seed within two years of germination. A mature plant can produce 50,000 seeds annually which remain viable in soil for at least 10 years. Of particular concern is this plant's ability to invade undisturbed areas as well as disturbed edges.

### **HABITAT**

Boneseed thrives in disturbed, drier areas inland from the coast. In Sutherland Shire it is found on ridgelines and exposed hillsides. Boneseed is capable of invading and dominating the understorey of forests and bushland areas. It can be invasive in coastal areas and in some instances may form dense thickets, excluding all other plant species. It will also invade disturbed areas especially industrial land and transport corridors.



Boneseed seedling.  
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

## ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

Boneseed originates in Western Cape Province, South Africa. Distribution is throughout all states of Australia, particularly in south eastern states. The exact date of introduction is unknown. It was first recorded in the wild in Sydney 1852 and in Adelaide, as a horticultural escapee in 1892. Boneseed was used in some NSW coastal areas as a sand stabiliser during the 1940s-1960s and now occurs along the entire NSW coastline to Mallacoota, Victoria.

## DECLARATION

Bitou Bush has been gazetted as a noxious weed in 53 local government areas in NSW. The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 is an instrument serving the protection of our environment, general health of the community and agricultural production. Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 all noxious weeds must be controlled. The act applies to all landowners and occupiers. This weed has a control category of class 4. For class 4 noxious weeds: *“The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority”*,. Failure to comply with the prescribed categories may result in a fine of 100 penalty units.

## CONTROL

- **Seedlings and small plants** can be hand-pulled or dug out. Ensure the roots are removed.
- **Plants** can be treated using the Cut and Paint method. Cut material with semi-ripe or ripe fruit should be disposed of safely.
- **Large plants** can be sprayed with a selective or non-selective herbicide throughout the year. Consult council's noxious weeds officers for information on the best herbicides and times to spray.



Dense infestation on a roadside.  
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

For further information contact  
Bushcare or Greenweb Units  
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