



Biosecurity alert: Boneseed

(*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*)

The pest and its impacts

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*) is a large perennial shrub and an environmental weed that has the potential to threaten natural ecosystems and spread throughout the south-west and surrounding areas if allowed to establish. It is a declared pest in Western Australia and also a Weed of National Significance. Several infestations around Perth and in the south-west are being monitored and are currently under eradication.

Boneseed characteristics

- found in both disturbed and undisturbed areas, roadsides, gardens and bushland
- prolific seeder (up to 50,000 seeds per plant every year) that germinate easily
- regenerates quickly and outcompetes native plants after fire
- spread by birds, animals and livestock, water and dumped garden waste
- can take 10 to 15 years to eradicate from sites when established
- very hardy and adaptable with vigorous growth, an absence of natural enemies, and has allelopathic effects on other vegetation.



Boneseed fruit



LOOK for this pest

- large perennial evergreen shrub up to 3 metres high, erect and densely branched
- leaves – dull green, smooth, irregularly serrated and paddle-shaped with tufts of cottony-down on new growth
- flowers – yellow and daisy-like, with 5 to 8 petals clustered on branch tips, appear from late winter (August to October)
- fruit – round, fleshy berries in clusters of 8, turning green to black and each contain only 1 seed (September to November)
- seeds – smooth, very hard and bone-coloured (hence the name), germinating mainly in autumn or all year if adequate soil moisture is present.



Flowering boneseed

Key points

- If found, hand-pull and up-end plants – they are shallow-rooted and easily removed.
- Collect and bag-up any fruit or seeds (on plant or ground) to deep-bury or burn.
- Movement is prohibited. Landholders must eradicate plants on their property.
- Shrubs can live for 10 to 20 years.



REPORT suspected sightings

- Be aware of any new or unusual plants
- Prompt action is necessary to assist in eradication
- Note the date, time and location of the pest
- Take photographs of the plant, leaves, flowers and any fruit or seeds.

Report your observations



MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.dpird.wa.gov.au

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