

**UNDER
ERADICATION**

**Is this plant in
your garden?**

**Have you seen
this plant?**



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.



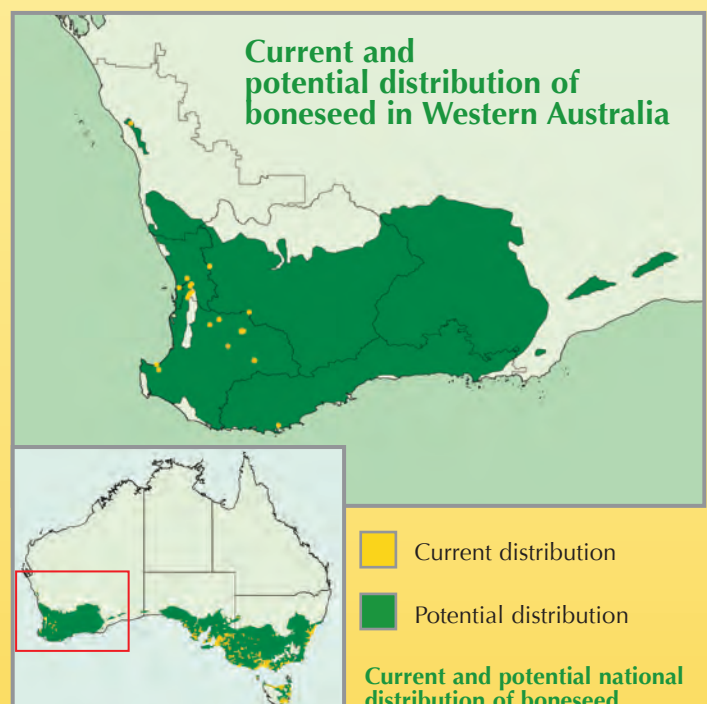
Boneseed invades native bushland and forms dense thickets that smother native plants and prevent regeneration. In Western Australia, boneseed has the potential to endanger threatened plants and ecological communities throughout the Southwest and surrounding regions. Boneseed:

- invades forests, woodlands, shrublands, dunes, coastal areas, heathlands, 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 is a serious weed in South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. If not controlled, boneseed has the potential to spread throughout southwest Western Australia (see map). Several small infestations around Perth and in the southwest are under eradication.

Boneseed reproduces by seeds that are spread into bushland by birds, rabbits, foxes, emus, 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 can produce enormous amounts of seed (up to 50,000 seeds per plant!) that germinate readily.



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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-like 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 (Aug – Oct) and is very conspicuous when flowering.



Boneseed invading native eucalypt woodland, Wandering WA.
Photo, H. Cherry



Flowers



Fruits



Leaves



Close-up of flowering boneseed plant.
Photo, N. Zeoli/MMLAP. Inset photos left, H. Cherry

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

What Can You Do About The Boneseed Problem?

Boneseed is a Declared Plant in Western Australia (P1, P2). The movement of boneseed plants or seeds is prohibited and landholders are required to eradicate boneseed on their property.

If you see boneseed please report the infestation to your local council or to DAFWA (see details on right).

Please ensure you do not have boneseed in your garden or on your property, as it spreads 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 or stems and dispose of them at the tip.
- Larger plants can be cut down and herbicide applied to stumps immediately after cutting (see links at right, or contact your local council bushcare officer for more information).
- When large plants are removed, new seedlings will sprout from the seedbank and should be hand-pulled immediately.

More Information?

See the Boneseed Management Manual at:
www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bitoubush

If you have boneseed on your property, contact the DAFWA Pest Information Service at 1800-084-881 to discuss eradication.

Visit the WA Department of Agriculture and Food website - www.agric.wa.gov.au (search for "declared plants" and boneseed).



Australian Government



Department of Agriculture and Food
Government of Western Australia



Department of
Environment and Conservation

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BITOU BUSH
& BONESEED



management group