

Boneseed

Chrysanthemoides monilifera

Noxious Weed

FLOWERS:

Yellow flowers having 5–8 petals and are up to 30mm in diameter. Some plants flower in the first year, although most are at least 18 months old.

LEAVES:

Oval shaped leaves 3-9cm long with irregularly serrated edges alternate along the stem. New growth typically being covered by white downy cotton-like material that are shed as the leaves mature.

STEMS:

Woody stems are branched and upright to 3m high.

SEED:

A round fleshy green fruit turning black when mature which contains a single smooth round seed 6–7mm in diameter. The seed is bone coloured when dry, hence the name 'boneseed'. An individual plant can produce 50,000 seeds a year of which about 60% seeds are viable. The hard seed coat splits open in some and these germinate as soon as there is enough soil moisture. In many seeds however, the seed coat remains intact and seeds can remain viable in the soil for more than ten years.

LIFECYCLE:

A perennial shrub, which grows up to 3m high which can live for 10–20 years. It has a shallow root system. It can absorb moisture from light summer showers before it reaches the deeper rooting zone of other plants. This gives it a competitive advantage over deeper-rooted species, especially in areas of low summer rainfall.

CONTROL:

Non-chemical control: Hand pulling small juvenile plants,

Chemical control:

- Cut and paint,
- Spray

(ALL herbicides applications should be carried out as stated within the manufacturers guidelines and the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets.)