

Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera*)

Fact sheet

What do they look like?

Boneseed is an erect perennial shrub, growing to 3m tall, with a shallow fibrous root system. Plants have fleshy dark green leaves which are toothed along the edges. Boneseed has bright yellow daisy-like flowers that usually contain 4-8 petals. It produces small, globular fruit 6-10mm in diameter that are green and ripen to a navy or black colour. The seed is hard, round and smooth and when dry is bone-coloured, hence the name Boneseed.



Why should Boneseed be controlled?

Boneseed is a prolific seeder, with one plant capable of producing up to 50,000 seeds per year. Fruit containing seeds are ingested by birds, rabbits, foxes, livestock and wildlife and are spread via their scats. Seeds can also spread in water, soil and dumped garden waste.

Once Boneseed plants become established, they can quickly invade native bushland and form dense thickets that outcompete native plants. Boneseed is also classified as a Weed of National Significance based on its environmental impacts, invasive ability and serious potential to spread. Consequently, Boneseed poses a major threat to Eyre Peninsula's biodiversity, as it has the potential to invade a huge range of soil types, rainfall areas and ecological communities.



Annual control program

The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board is involved in maintaining a national western Boneseed containment line to prevent the spread of Boneseed further west in South Australia. On Eyre Peninsula, all known Boneseed sites are monitored annually in September and any plants found are destroyed with the aim of eradicating this weed.



What are my responsibilities?

Boneseed is a declared weed for the whole of South Australia under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. Under the *Landscape Act*, landowners along with property owners who rent or lease their properties, have obligations to control any Boneseed that may be present on their property.

More information

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What are the best ways to control Boneseed?

A combination of control methods may be required for effective control. It is important to ensure that control occurs before seeds are set. Boneseed flowers between July and September which makes it the ideal time to identify plants and control them. Control of seedlings will be required annually.

Chemical control

Cut & swab: A glyphosate based product can be used to cut and swab larger plants. Cut plants as close to the ground as possible and immediately paint the stump surface with glyphosate.

Foliar spray: Chemical control using glyphosate is useful for controlling a large area of emerging seedlings. Addition of a surfactant is recommended to ensure the chemical can penetrate into the plant.

Physical control

Hand pull: Plants up to 2m in height can be removed by hand. Hand-pulling is a good option as Boneseed plants are shallow rooted and relatively easy to remove.

Grazing: Small seedlings are very palatable to stock. An effective way to control seedling germination following the removal of large seeding plants is to run livestock in the infested area post seedling emergence.

Do you have Boneseed?

If you think you have Boneseed on your property, Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board staff can provide advice on control and management.