

Agriculture Protection Board
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BONESEED



Photograph from "Noxious Weeds of Victoria"



1. Fruit and Flower 2. Seedling 3. Mature Plant 4. Fruit

(continued overleaf)

BONESEED

BONESEED (*Chrysanthemoides monolifera*) is a native of South Africa. It was introduced to Australia in the 1850's as an ornamental plant but has since spread from gardens to disturbed areas such as roadsides from which it invades bushland.

Boneseed is of little agricultural importance; however it is a potential threat to native bushland in Western Australia

Isolated Boneseed plants have been found in Western Australia.

Ecology:

Boneseed is a perennial plant reproducing only from seed. It

flowers from July to October but usually not until the plant is at least 18 months old. The seeds can germinate at any time of year if the soil is sufficiently moist.

The seeds are spread mainly by birds and rabbits which eat the fruit and void the seed. However man has also spread the plant widely as a garden specimen. New infestations can start from dumped garden rubbish or when gravel is carted from infested areas.

Description:

Boneseed is a shrub up to 3 m high. It has dark green, irregularly serrated leaves on short stalks. The

flowers are yellow, up to 3 cm in diameter and formed in clusters at the end of branches.

Each flower head produces up to eight spherical green berries which go black as they ripen. The mature fruit contains one very hard and bone like seed.

For advice on Boneseed identification and control, contact the Agriculture Protection Board, Jarrah Road, South Perth, telephone (09) 367 0111 or any local office of the Agriculture Protection Board or Department of Agriculture.