

# Sticky nightshade

Sticky nightshade (*Solanum sisymbriifolium*) is an extremely invasive plant which has been identified as a priority weed in the Central Tablelands.

## IMPACTS TO THE REGION

As a highly invasive plant, Sticky nightshade:

- ! competes with crops and pastures
- ! hinders native ground coverage
- ! causes injury to stock and humans due to sharp prickles

## HOW TO IDENTIFY

Sticky nightshade is a hairy, upright plant that can grow to 1.5 metres in height and is covered in sharp prickles. Leaves are sticky, with prickles on both sides and are green-yellow in colour. Leaf sizes range from 5-14cm in length and 4-10cm in width.

Flowers are star shaped and develop within five weeks of germination. They are white or pale blue/purple, with five petals per flower and bright yellow anthers in the centre.

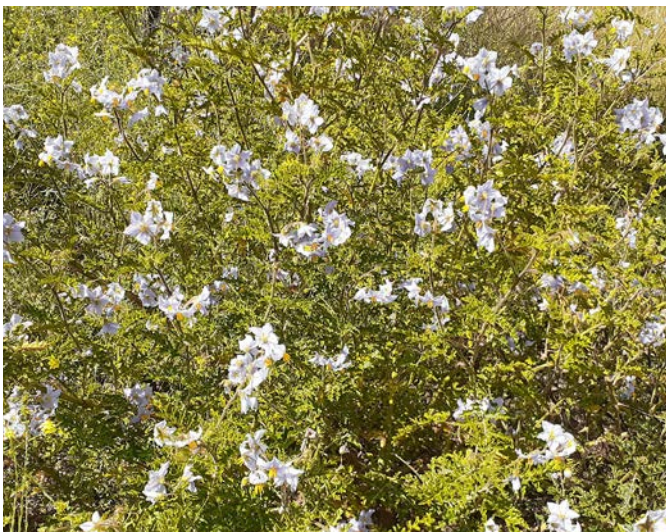
This weed also produces berries which ripen to bright red and are approximately 15-20mm in diameter.



FLOWERS GROW TO 3–5CM IN SIZE, IN GROUPS OF 4–12



A HAIRY, PRICKLY PLANT WITH BERRIES THAT RIPEN TO RED



STICKY NIGHTSHADE: AN INVASIVE WEED CAUSING STOCK INJURY



## HOW TO MANAGE STICKY NIGHTSHADE

Successful weed control requires continual follow-up and monitoring. Early detection of Sticky nightshade is paramount, as it can flower within five weeks of sprouting.



### Physical removal

Remove by hand especially after rain when the soil is moist. Dig or chip out smaller plants ensuring the roots have been removed. Wear protective clothing to avoid being injured by prickles.



### Chemical spray

Thoroughly spray the leaves and stems. Spraying will kill the plant, however it will not kill the seed. Remove the seed while avoiding breaking and dispersing the seed. Avoid slashing and cultivation as a means of control. Slashing can spread seed and cultivation can move the roots to the clean area.

## HOW DOES STICKY NIGHTSHADE SPREAD?

Dispersal of this weed is primarily via animals eating the berries and excreting the viable seeds, movement of contaminated soil, rivers and streams and slashers.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Land owners under the Biosecurity Act 2015 have a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) where they are expected to, within reason know about any weeds which may impact their land. Owners should have a plan of management in place to reduce, minimise or eliminate the risk posed by weeds on their property.

When reporting Sticky nightshade, the infected area will be inspected by Council along with a management plan strategy. A follow-up inspection will then be arranged. Council is responsible for enforcing the Biosecurity Act 2015 and its regulations. This includes fines for failure to comply with GBD.

## GET THE FREE WEEDS APP

NSW WeedWise is provided as a free smartphone app through the app stores. Users can search or browse weed names (common or scientific), recognise a weed by its physical description and image gallery, and find out about its impacts, where it occurs, how it spreads and its preferred habitat.

General, State or Regional biosecurity duties under the Biosecurity Act 2015 are displayed for each weed.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Council's website [midwestern.nsw.gov.au](http://midwestern.nsw.gov.au), or the NSW DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) and search 'weeds'. Council's Weeds Team are available to assist on 6378 2939 or at [weeds.admin@midwestern.nsw.gov.au](mailto:weeds.admin@midwestern.nsw.gov.au).

## DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this fact sheet is general in nature and should not be relied upon as the complete source of information to be considered. This document is not intended as a substitute for consulting relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.

References: NSW DPI