

Sticky Nightshade

Sticky nightshade (*Solanum sisymbriifolium*) is an extremely invasive plant that is a priority weed in the Central Tablelands.

WHAT IS STICKY NIGHTSHADE?

Sticky nightshade is an invasive plant that:

- ❗ Competes with crops and pastures;
- ❗ Prevents native plants from growing;
- ❗ Has sharp prickles which can injure people, pets, livestock and native animals.

HOW TO IDENTIFY

Leaves are:

- Sticky;
- Green to yellowish on both sides;
- 5–14cm long and 4–10cm wide;
- Deeply lobed, with variable numbers and shapes of lobes;
- Hairy and prickly on both sides;
- On stalks up to 4cm long.



Fruits are:

- Round berries;
- Bright red when ripe;
- Enclosed in a green prickly husk before ripening;
- 15–20mm diameter.



Flowers are:

- White or pale bluish-purple;
- Star-shaped with 5 petals that curve backwards and bright yellow anthers in the centre;
- 35–50mm in diameter;
- In groups of 4–12;
- Present spring to summer.



HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

By seed

- Animals eating ripe fruit and excreting viable seeds
- Dead branches with fruit blowing along the ground, dispersing seeds
- Water as the fruit floats and can be carried in runoff, rivers and streams
- Slashers
- Movement of contaminated soil and fodder
- Movement of soil on cultivation equipment and earthmoving equipment
- Many seeds germinate under parent plants, making infestation denser

By plant parts

- Sticky nightshade can grow from root or rhizome fragments
- Branches develop roots where they touch soil
- In contaminated soil
- On cultivation equipment
- On earth-moving equipment

CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

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.

Chemical spray

Thoroughly spray the leaves and stems and spray the plant from all sides where possible. Spraying will kill the plant, but not the viable seeds. Remove the fruit from each plant and dispose of appropriately to avoid adding to the seed bank in the soil.



Slashing

AVOID slashing as it can spread the weed. Slashing does not control it because the berries can grow close to the ground.



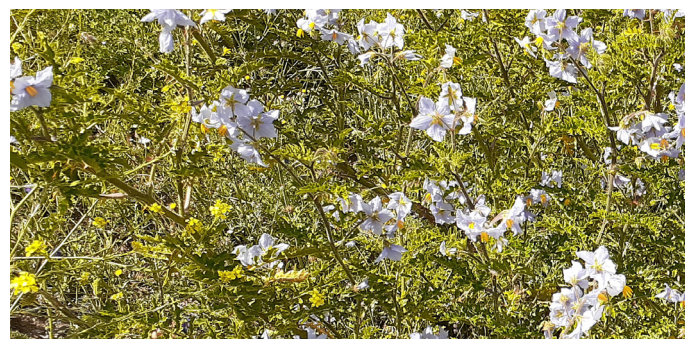
YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Landowners under the Biosecurity Act 2015 have a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) are expected to, within reason, know about any weeds which may impact their land.

Regional Recommended Measure – CONTAINMENT

Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant. A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.

You MUST Notify Local Control Authority if found.



GET THE FREE WEEDS APP

NSW Department of Primary Industries have developed an app that provides key information to help users reduce the impact of over 320 weeds in NSW, called NSW WeedWise.

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.



NSW WeedWise is a free smartphone app available through app stores.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au, or the NSW DPI website 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.

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