

# Weed of the month

## Boneseed

*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *monilifera*

### Family

Asteraceae

### Identification

- Bushy shrub or small tree up to 3 m tall
- The dull green leathery leaves have toothed edges
- Leaves are not lost over winter
- Bright yellow daisy-like flowers appear in clusters from August to February
- The seed turns from green to black as it ripens.

### Where is it found?

Boneseed was introduced to New Zealand as an ornamental plant. It has since escaped from gardens to invade mainly coastal areas in Canterbury.

### Why is it a problem?

Boneseed can tolerate dry, infertile soils, allowing it to successfully invade coastal areas. Each plant can produce a huge amount of seed (up to 50 000 seeds per year ) which can be spread by birds and water. A vigorous grower, boneseed can displace desirable plants and shade out native species growing beneath it.

### Status

Boneseed is an unwanted organism and a declared pest under Canterbury's Regional Pest Management Plan 2018-2038 Sustained control program. It is not to be sold, propagated or distributed in New Zealand.



Photo: Boneseed flowers  
Credit: A. Paltridge (DOC)



Photo: Boneseed fruit  
Credit: Weedbusters



Photo: Boneseed leaves and flowers  
Credit: iNaturalist: matildak



For more information on weeds visit  
[weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)  
[doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)  
[ecan.govt.nz](http://ecan.govt.nz)

 **Environment  
Canterbury**  
Regional Council  
*Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha*

# Boneseed busting in four steps

## Know it

Boneseed is named after the large number of hard seeds it produces each season. It has smooth, leathery, dark-green leaves and is covered in bright yellow, daisy-like flowers from August to February.

## See it

Boneseed was originally planted as an ornamental garden plant but it has 'jumped the fence' and now invades coastal areas, cliffs and sand dunes. Boneseed can often be found in gardens - is it growing in yours? Now is the time to check!

## Control it

Before they set seed, hand-pull small bushes out of the ground and leave them to rot down. Cut larger bushes at ground level and paint the stump with an appropriate herbicide. Dispose of large material in a compost heap (seeds removed) or at an appropriate landfill. Use all herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure no herbicide comes into contact with other plants, the soil or waterways.

## Stop it coming back

Keep an eye out for seedlings that might grow in areas where larger boneseed bushes have been removed. Hand-pull them out while they are small.

For further information on boneseed, please visit the Weedbusters website on [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)

