

Horsenettle

Solanum carolinense

Control of horsenettle is funded, and carried out, by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. We would like members of the public to let us know of any possible sightings of this plant.

Description

A perennial herbaceous plant up to 1m tall.

Dies back in winter.

Leaves: Dark green, up to 100mm long, lobed, with spines along upper and underside of leaves.

Stems: Very spiny.

Flowers: Mauve with yellow centre.

Fruit: Large dark green egg shaped berries with lighter stripes. Turn yellow when ripe.

Roots: Very deep spreading rhizomes.

Origin

Southern United States.

Probably arrived in NZ as contaminant of maize seeds.

Where is it found?

In pasture and arable land, especially in maize paddocks.

Currently (2013) horsenettle is known at only two sites in the Bay of Plenty: at Te Puna and at Waihou Bay. It is being actively controlled at all known sites.

How does it spread?

By spreading underground roots (rhizomes) producing new plants.

By fragments of root moved by agricultural machinery.

Why is it a problem?

- Can eventually dominate pasture and arable land.
- Very difficult to control because of its deep root system.
- Toxic to stock.

Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Horsenettle is an Exclusion and Eradication Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread horsenettle in the Bay of Plenty.

Control of horsenettle is funded, and carried out, by Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Machinery or equipment must be cleaned prior to leaving a site contaminated with horsenettle.



Horsenettle plant

How do I get rid of it?

Please don't try, it is very difficult!

If you think you have found this plant, please let us know.

Staff will always follow up possible finds of this plant and if confirmed we will work with you to control it.

Call us on 0800 STOP PESTS (0800 780 773)

Or email us at info@boprc.govt.nz



ERADICATION/EXCLUSION PEST



Horsenettle flower. Also note the spines on the stem.



Horsenettle leaf. Note spines on midrib. There are also spines on the underside of the leaves.



Horsenettle.



Young horsenettle fruit. These will turn yellow when ripe



Horsenettle can spread by means of its roots to cover a large area.



Horsenettle spreading rhizomatous roots.