

PLANT PEST CONTROL



LAND PLANT PESTS

Apple of sodom: *Solanum linnaeanum*

Why is this a problem?

Apple of sodom is an unpleasant spiny woody perennial, which has the ability to spread prolifically through poor pastures and scrub margins if not controlled. The berries can be poisonous to stock and humans and contain a large number of seeds which are spread by birds.

Apple of sodom is designated as a TOTAL CONTROL plant pest throughout the Hawke's Bay region.

This means the land occupier must destroy all Apple of sodom plants before the production of hard seed.

For details please refer to the Regional Plant Pest and Animal Pest Management Strategy, or consult with your Biosecurity Plant Pest Officer at Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

What does it look like?

- Apple of sodom is a woody perennial shrub, which can grow 1 metre or more tall.
- Leaves are dark green, deeply lobed and oblong in shape. They are approximately 90mm long by 70mm wide and have spines growing along the leaf veins and down the stems.
- Flowers are mauve or violet and occur singularly or in clusters. They are approximately 25-35mm in diameter on stalks up to 10mm long. Flowering occurs between September and May.
- The berries are large, growing up to 30mm in diameter. They are mottled green and white ripening to a yellow colour. Each berry contains a large number of seeds, which are often spread by birds.
- The berries can be poisonous to stock and humans.



Apple of sodom shrub



Large berries and deeply lobed, spiny leaves.

Where is it found?

Apple of Sodom is found north of Napier from Bay View through to Tangoio and up the Esk Valley. It also occurs in other parts of Hawke's Bay but to a lesser extent. It generally prefers frost-free coastal sands or poor pasture and scrub margins, but in Hawke's Bay it is also found on dry, rolling hill country.

What is the best way to control this plant pest?

If you suspect you have Apple of Sodom on your property, contact your Biosecurity Plant Pest Officer who will help you to identify the plant and assist with control advice.

Chemical Control

Best control has been achieved through chemical control methods. Cut the stem 10cm from the ground and immediately apply a recommended herbicide to the stump.

For large infestations, spraying with a handgun or knapsack is a practical alternative. Use a recommended herbicide.

Apply all herbicides according to their label. Consult your Biosecurity Plant Pest Officer at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for the current herbicide recommendations.

Physical Control

Small seedling plants can be pulled or grubbed out. Ensure the majority of roots are removed along with the plant.

Biological Control

At present, there are no biological control agents.

For further information

If you think you may have this plant pest on your property, please contact the Biosecurity Plant Pest Officers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to control it.

Wairoa	06 838 8527
Napier	06 835 9200
Waipukurau	06 858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838

www.hbrc.govt.nz

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