

PLANT PEST CONTROL



LAND PLANT PESTS

White-edged nightshade: *Solanum marginatum*

Why is this a problem?

White-edged nightshade forms dense, impenetrable thickets. Spines can injure stock and restrict stock movement across paddocks. Control of White-edged nightshade is very difficult. Seed is readily spread by machinery, through attaching to sheep fleeces and by birds eating the berries.

White-edged nightshade is designated as a TOTAL CONTROL plant pest throughout the Hawke's Bay region.

This means the land occupier must destroy all White-edged nightshade 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?

- White-edged nightshade grows slowly, but can reach 1 to 2.5 metres in height, and has woody stems.
- This perennial plant is light coloured, so is obvious from a distance.
- White-edged Nightshade has large, white-edged, oak-shaped leaves, which are velvet-like underneath and green on top. It has short, sharp woody spines along the top and bottom of leaf veins and on the branches.
- Flowers are large and are white -light mauve in colour. The light brown seeds are contained in large green round berries, 4 cm in diameter, which ripen to yellow. The berries are poisonous to humans and stock.

Where is it found?

White-edged nightshade is more likely to be found in shaded areas but will grow on any soil type.



The most distinguishing feature is spines on both sides of the leaves and thorns on the stems.



A light-coloured spiny shrub obvious from a distance.

It was first discovered in the Hawke's Bay in 1984. It is of very limited distribution at present. The goal is to eradicate this plant from Hawke's Bay.

What's the best way to control this plant pest?

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

Chemical control

Hormone sprays such as Tordon NF or Grazon or non-hormone sprays such as glyphosate can be used to control White-edged nightshade.

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

The aim is to eradicate this plant. Small seedling plants can be pulled or grubbed out. However, do not move the plants from where they lie.

Cutting and immediately painting the stump with chemical is also a very effective control method.

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 Noxious Plants Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to eradicate 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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