

# NOXIOUS WEED PROFILE



## Bitou Bush *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp *rotundata*



### IDENTIFICATION

**Habit:** Spreading woody shrub with succulent stems up to 3 metres tall, often prostrate on the ground. Young growth is typically covered by a cottony down.

**Leaves:** Bright green, succulent, oval in shape with a tapering base and irregular teeth along the edge.

**Flowers:** Yellow daisy like flowers

**Fruits:** Green, becoming black when ripe. Mature shrubs can produce up to 50,000 seeds per bush.

**Origin:** Native of South Africa.

### WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Unlike most other weeds, Bitou Bush invades undisturbed bushland areas. In a few years it can overgrow all but the taller trees in coastal habitats. It is now found on 90% of the sandy coast of NSW and has been listed as a **Key Threatening Process** under the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**. Bitou Bush has also been listed as a **Weed of National Significance**.

Bitou Bush is declared a Noxious Weed in the City of Randwick and many other areas under the **Noxious Weed Act 1993**. Bitou is a class 4 **Noxious Weed**, which means that *the weed must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced*.

### METHODS OF REMOVAL

Young plants have a shallow root system and can easily be pulled out. Mature plants can either be foliage sprayed with an appropriate herbicide or you can adopt the 'cut and paint' method. This technique is where stems are cut as close to the ground as possible and the remaining stump is immediately covered with herbicide using a paintbrush or dropper bottle.

*When using herbicide to control weeds the user has a legal obligation to read the herbicide manufacturer's label and apply the herbicide in accordance with that label. Responsible use of herbicides protects human health and the natural environment.*