

# White Edged Nightshade

## *Solanum marginatum*

**Total Control Plant under the  
West Coast Regional Pest  
Plant Management Strategy**



**Suspected sightings of this Total Control Plant should be reported promptly to the West Coast Regional Council or DOC Conservancy Office, Hokitika**

### **National Pest Plant Accord Status**

White Edged Nightshade is listed in the 2008 National Pest Plant Accord and is banned from sale, propagation and distribution in New Zealand. For more information refer to the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand website at [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa)

### **Where has White Edged Nightshade come from?**

White Edged Nightshade is native to North Africa. It was first introduced to New Zealand in the 1880's as an ornamental plant but soon escaped to colonise marginal lands, mainly in the North Island. Concerted efforts were made in the 1930's to eradicate the plant but there are still small infestations in some parts of the country. With only one known infestation on the West Coast, eradication (total control) of this plant is being aimed for.

### **What does White Edged Nightshade look like?**

White Edged Nightshade is a perennial shrub which grows to 5m. It is easily recognisable by its leaves, which are chalky-white on the undersides and also on the veins and margins of the upper leaf.

The stems are clothed in white felt-like hairs with long yellow prickles while the leaves have long prickles along the lines of the veins.

The plant has white flowers, sometimes with purple veins which bloom in clusters of 2-10 at the ends of the branches. These are followed by formation of large berries which change from green to yellow as they ripen. The fruit resemble small tomatoes. Plants are spread mostly by soil and water movement as birds do not generally like the fruit.

*Top right: White Edged Nightshade shrub with fruit [EBOP]*

*Below right: Leaf and flower detail [EBOP]*



### **Why is White Edged Nightshade a Pest Plant?**

White Edged Nightshade is considered a pest plant because it has the capacity to form dense stands in wasteland areas (roadsides, bush margins, scrub and poor pasture land), which receive warm sun and good rainfall. The dense thickets displace pasture and can become impenetrable for both humans and stock. The plant is toxic and people have become ill after tasting the fruit. Related species, Apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*) and Devil's Fig (*Solanum torvum*) are also toxic.

## What are the best methods of control?

Ensure suspect plants are correctly identified then choose a combination of the following to best suit the situation. As White Edged Nightshade seed has long viability, treated areas will need ongoing monitoring to check for new plants.

NOTE: For assistance with plant identification and/or control methods, contact a Regional Weedbusters Co-ordinator (see below).

### **Manual Methods**

For small plants, handpull or dig out carefully ensuring you get the whole taproot. Leave plants to die off in sun or/and dispose of to landfill in black plastic bags. Take care not to move seed elsewhere.

### **Herbicide Methods**

There are two options available here:

- Cut down plants and paint stumps immediately with a herbicide, e.g. Vigilant Gel OR 1 part Tordon Brushkiller to 10 parts water
- Spray with glyphosate based products such as Roundup or triclopr/picloram based products such as Tordon NF or Grazon. Suggested mixes are:
  1. Tordon Brushkiller, 60ml/10L water
  2. Tordon Gold, 120mls/10L water

**For personal safety please use all herbicides as per manufacturer's labelling**

### **Biocontrols**

There are no known biological controls for White Edged Nightshade at present.

## Where can I get more help?

For further information call either of the Regional Weedbusters Co-ordinators. They are:

**Mary Traves:** Environmental Information Officer, West Coast Regional Council (768 0466 or 0508 800 118)

**Tom Belton:** Technical Support Officer Biosecurity & Weeds, Department of Conservation, West Coast - Tai Poutini Conservancy, Hokitika (03 756 9100)



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)

*The West Coast Regional Council does not accept liability for any advice given on this sheet regarding application of herbicides for pest plant control. The brand names listed imply neither endorsement of those brands, nor criticism of any other brands not listed.*