

## PLANT PEST CONTROL

### LAND PLANT PESTS

#### Woolly nightshade: *Solanum mauritianum*

##### **Why are we worried?**

Woolly Nightshade is an aggressively invasive and very fast-growing plant. Seedlings establish very quickly and can soon dominate poorly managed and neglected land. Areas particularly at risk include native forest margins, scrub and shrubland areas including prime sites for native forest regeneration, amenity areas such as reserves, shelterbelts and farm woodlots, hill country grazing land, young pine plantations waste spaces and open areas around urban gardens.

Woolly Nightshade may form dense stands beneath which little else will grow. Established shrubs and trees of Woolly Nightshade fruit prolifically from the first year of establishment and viable seed is spread widely by birds. Once a seed source has established, seedlings from it can spread over a wide area. People handling Woolly Nightshade may suffer nausea and irritation of the skin and respiratory tract.

##### **What does it look like?**

- It is also known as tobacco weed, kerosene plant, flannel weed and eared nightshade. It is an upright shrub, quickly growing into a small tree up to 10 metres tall with stems up to 30cm in diameter. The leaves are oval and pointed at both ends, up to 50cm long, and covered in thick hairs, especially on the lower surface.

- The small but pretty lilac flowers are massed in flat-topped clusters at the ends of branches, and are up to 25 cm in width. The plant produces green berries, which yellow when ripe and are up to 18 mm in diameter. This plant also has a vaguely unpleasant and musty smell.
- Woolly Nightshade seedlings establishing in summer can flower the same autumn. This flowering continues for most of the year.

##### **Where is it found?**

Mainly found in the more temperate parts of Hawke's Bay such as the Napier Hill, Whirinaki, Havelock North, and parts of

(over)



Hastings. It is also found along roadsides and in home gardens throughout the region.

***What is the best way to control the plant?***

Smaller plants can be pulled out, while larger plants may need to be dug out. All plant material with seeds must be destroyed by either burning the cut material or carefully taking it to a community landfill.

Do not dump it in a private tip.

For plants too large to dig out, it is necessary to cut the tree down and immediately paint the cut stump with a suitable chemical which prevents regrowth, such as Tordon Brushkiller N.F., Grazon, Roundup, Tordon 2G, and Amitrole. Check with your local garden centre if you wish to use other chemicals.

**For further information**

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

Wairoa	0-6-838 8527
Napier	0-6-835 9200
Waipukurau	0-6-858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838