

Koster's Curse

(*Clidemia hirta*)

Originating in tropical America, Koster's Curse is a highly invasive shrub. In August 2001 an infestation of Koster's Curse was detected near Julatten, North Queensland and was the subject of an eradication campaign; however it is possible it has become established elsewhere.



Weed Class: Class 1 noxious weed.

Description: A perennial shrub about 2m high, but can grow to 5m in the shade.

Leaves: Hairy above and below, and widest about the middle. 5-14cm long and 4-7cm wide.

Flowers: Clusters of small white flowers (1.5cm) in the leaf forks.

Fruit: Hairy, blue-black berries 4-5mm in diameter containing hundreds of tiny seeds.

Dispersal: Spread by fruit-eating birds and mammals. Can also reproduce vegetatively.

Habitat: Potential habitat includes humid coastal sites in the Northern Territory, much of north-east Queensland, through to the North Coast of NSW. Koster's Curse has not yet been identified in NSW.

Koster's Curse (*Clidemia hirta*) Declaration details

Koster's Curse is a class 1 declared noxious weed for the entire State and is the target of a national eradication program. New infestations must be reported to local control authorities and identified and removed by approved officers after the location is recorded.

Importation, possession, and sale are prohibited. Landholders are required to keep their land free of this plant.



More information:

- www.northcoastweeds.org.au
- www.weeds.org.au
- www.clarence.nsw.gov.au
- www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au
- www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au
- www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au
- www.clarence.nsw.gov.au
- www.fnwc.nsw.gov.au

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