

Fact Sheet: Woolly Nightshade Identification and Removal



Woolly Nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*), also known as tobacco plant, is an invasive weed that poses a threat to New Zealand's native ecosystems. Recognizing and promptly removing this plant from your garden is crucial to preventing its spread and protecting the local environment.

Identification:

1. **Leaves:** Woolly Nightshade has large, oval-shaped leaves covered in dense, woolly hairs, giving them a distinct gray-green appearance.
2. **Flowers:** Clusters of small, star-shaped, white to pale lavender flowers bloom during spring and summer.
3. **Berries:** The plant produces small, round berries that start green and turn yellow when ripe, containing numerous seeds.
4. **Growth Habit:** Woolly Nightshade can grow into a small tree or large shrub, reaching heights of up to 10 meters. Young plants may also appear as dense shrubs.
5. **Distinctive Odor:** Crushing the leaves or stems releases a strong, unpleasant odour.

Habitat and Impact:

1. **Spread:** Woolly Nightshade spreads rapidly and outcompetes native vegetation, reducing biodiversity.
2. **Erosion Control:** While it was originally introduced for erosion control, it has become a serious environmental concern due to its invasive nature.
3. **Toxicity:** All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and animals if ingested.

Removal and Control:

1. **Manual Removal:** Wear protective gear, including gloves, when manually removing Woolly Nightshade. Cut the plant at ground level and remove the entire root system. Dispose of all plant parts appropriately, as they can sprout from cuttings. It is advised to use a cut and paste product like Picloram to stop sprouting.
2. **Chemical Control:** Herbicides containing glyphosate or triclopyr can be effective, but caution must be exercised to avoid harm to non-target plants.
3. **Prevention:** Regularly monitor your garden for signs of Woolly Nightshade and take prompt action to remove any sightings. Avoid planting or encouraging the growth of this invasive species.

Would you rather professional results:

Our team of experts is dedicated to helping you maintain a healthy and thriving garden by identifying and removing invasive species like Woolly Nightshade.

[Contact us](#) today for a personalized assessment and removal plan tailored to your garden's specific needs.

Let's work together to protect our environment for future generations.

Contact Lakes Consultancy for an Assessment and Removal Plan:

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