

# Bur daisy

*Calotis lappulacea*

Family Asteraceae



## Identification

- Small, **perennial herb** (up to 40cm tall and 1m in diameter) with many fine, green branches.
- The green, **thin (almost linear) leaves** are fairly insignificant.
- Small, **pom pom-like clusters** of bright yellow flowers are produced for most of the year, but are most prolific over the summer.
- Flowers develop into very **hard, brown burs**, covered in **tiny hooks**.



Bur daisy Photo: S. Brown



Bur daisy seed heads Photo: K. McCombs

## Why is it a problem?

Bur daisy is a serious threat to our wool industry due to the cost involved in removing burs from sheep fleeces. If left uncontrolled, bur daisy replaces desirable plant species. It produces many seeds that are quickly spread by stock movement and remain viable for many years.

## Where is it a problem?

Originally from Australia, bur daisy probably arrived in New Zealand attached to the wool of imported sheep. It prefers to grow on dry, eroded hill slopes and rocky outcrops. If uncontrolled, bur daisy will spread to fertile country.

New Zealand's distribution is currently restricted to isolated sites in Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago but has the potential to spread throughout South Island dry, pastoral country.

## Status

Bur daisy is a 'total control' plant in the Regional Pest Management Strategy. The objective is complete eradication from Canterbury. Please report any suspected sightings to Environment Canterbury.

Christchurch (03) 365 3828

North Canterbury (03) 314 8014

Timaru (03) 688 9069

## Control

Control will be carried out by Environment Canterbury staff. For more information, please email [weeds@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:weeds@ecan.govt.nz)



Bur daisy Photo: T. Broughton