

White-edged nightshade

Solanum marginatum

Family Solanaceae



Identification

- Quick growing perennial shrub that can grow up to 5 metres tall.
- The large woody stems and green oak-shaped leaves are covered in nasty sharp spines.
- The leaves have white veins on the upper surface and dense chalky-white hairs on the underside.
- In summer white or pale mauve flowers (that look similar to potato flowers) bloom in clusters at the end of branches.
- Green-yellow tomato-shaped berries grow on the ends of prickly stalks.



White-edged nightshade. Photo: Plant Protection Society.



White-edged nightshade flowers. Photo: DOC (R.Smith).

Where is it found?

White-edged nightshade can be found growing in forest margins, along road-sides, in scrub, waste places and on pasture land.

White-edged nightshade is of very limited distribution in Canterbury. To date it is only known to be found in a few coastal areas on Banks Peninsula.

Why is it a problem?

This nasty prickly plant can form dense thickets, potentially displacing pasture and native species. It is also regarded as a threat to marginal coastal areas.

Status

White-edged nightshade has been declared an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act, 1993 which makes it illegal to knowingly release, spread, display or sell, breed, propagate or otherwise distribute plants or parts thereof.

It is also designated as a 'Total Control' plant in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy. For more information on strategy rules, please visit www.ecan.govt.nz.

Have you seen it?

If you think you have found white-edged nightshade, please contact Environment Canterbury or the Potential Pest Line on (03) 363 9380 immediately.



Underside of white-edged nightshade leaf and fruit. Photo: DOC (T. Belton).