

Coastal Notes

Dolichos Pea

Coast Action/ Coastcare



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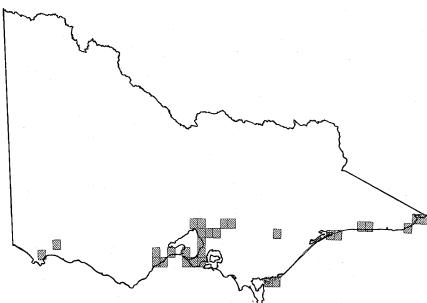
Botanical Name: *Dipogon lignosus*

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: South Africa



Distribution



Weed Dispersal

Seed flung away as pod splits. Possibly dispersed by insects. Sometimes deliberately planted.

Indigenous Look-a-likes

Running Postman, *Kennedia prostrata*

Groundcover with long, creeping stems. Bright red flowers in Winter and Spring. Leaflets have undulating edges without a tapering point.

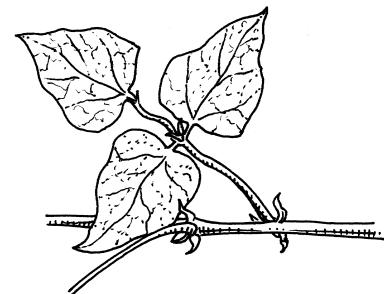
Identification

Form

CLIMBER- Perennial vine with slender, twining stems becoming ropelike with age. Climbs to 4m.

Leaf

The long stalked leaves are smooth, medium green and pale below. Each leaf consists of 3 tapering leaflets (3-9 cm x 1- 7cm)



Flower

Clusters of pea-like blooms, white, pale mauve to purple, are borne on stalks mainly between September-January.



Pods

Narrow, sickle shaped pods (2-

5cm long) with ovate, black seeds, (up to 4.5mm long).

Management

Permission should be sought from the land manager before any weed control is undertaken.

Removal methods

Remove small and scattered plants first and then target outer edges of larger infestations. **Best removed before seeding.**

Dolichos has a deep woody tap root.



Department of
Natural Resources
and Environment



Small Plants

Hand pull or dig out trailing vines, carefully removing all roots, and minimising soil disturbance



Spray young seedlings with suitable herbicide, if appropriate.

Large Infestations

Cut climbing stems from roots with secateurs.



Dig out root stumps.



Alternatively, paint cut stumps of large plants with suitable herbicide **immediately** after cutting



Hand pull or dig out trailing vines, carefully removing all roots and minimising soil disturbance.

Disposal

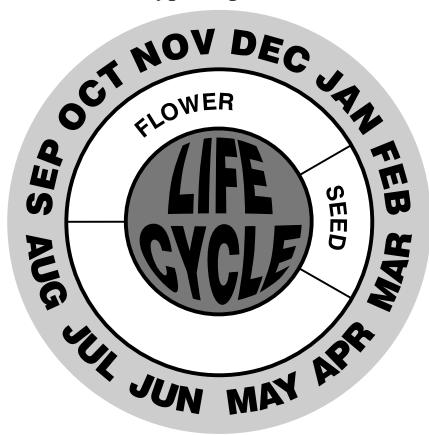
Providing there are no seeds, leave plants to decompose on the ground with their roots in the air. Alternatively seal in a strong bag and take to the tip.

Maintenance

Monitor site regularly for regrowth or new seedlings. Hand pull or dig out.

Life Cycle

The life cycle may vary according to seasons and site conditions such as soil type, aspect and location.

**Replacement Plants**

Replace Dolichos Pea with appropriate indigenous plants.

Encourage indigenous plant regeneration. Seek advice from your local indigenous nursery or your NRE Coast Action/Coastcare facilitator.

Herbicide Recommendations

- Always consider manual weed removal methods before herbicide treatments, to avoid the unnecessary introduction of herbicides into the natural environment.
- Information on up-to-date herbicide treatment is available from herbicide companies.
- Users of herbicides should read the label fully, follow directions carefully and ensure that correct precautions and procedures are applied. To do otherwise is at the user's own risk.
- It is advisable for at least one member of any environment group to have undertaken an approved chemical safety course. See local TAFE courses.

Did you know?

- Dolichos is an invasive plant and a very serious threat to indigenous vegetation.
- It is also known as Lavatory Creeper, Dunny Creeper or Chookhouse Vine as it was frequently grown to hide these structures.
- Dolichos seeds readily, is a vigorous climber and will smother indigenous vegetation.
- It was introduced as a garden plant and is still available in nurseries.
- Seeds can lie in the soil for many years and still germinate.
- Seed stored in soil is substantially reduced by fire. Mature plants are fire sensitive.

Feedback

New information is vital. Please inform your local NRE Coast Action/Coastcare facilitator of your weed management results.

References

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