

# African boxthorn

*Lycium ferocissimum* Miers



Photo by Kevin Sparrow



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## Noxious Weed

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flowering				☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Seeding			☑	☑	☑							
Germination	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Control	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑

# African boxthorn

## *Lycium ferocissimum* Miers

### Noxious Weed

#### FLOWERS:

Small, scented, white or pale lilac flowers with purple markings, occur singly or in pairs. They appear mostly in summer but there are also some that flower throughout the year.

#### LEAVES:

Green, fleshy and smooth up to 3.5cm long and 2cm wide, ovate to elliptical with short stalks, formed in clusters of groups of 5-12 at the numerous nodes. On young shoots, single, alternate leaves may appear for a brief time at the many nodes. The leaves are larger and more succulent on regrowth from damaged plants.

#### STEMS:

Light brown when immature to brown or grey when mature, erect and branched. Large spines up to 15cm long occur on the main stems with smaller spines on sides and ends of branches. Each of these smaller branches ends with a spine.

#### SEED:

The fruit is a ball-shaped berry 5-10mm in diameter with a prominent calyx that is smooth and shiny with a short drooping stalk. The berry ripens to a dull orange-red colour with up to 35-70 seeds. The seeds are light brown to yellow and dull with small raised dots on the surface, 2.5mm long by 1.5mm wide ovoid or irregular in shape and flattened.

#### LIFECYCLE:

An erect shrub with many rigid branches growing up to 4m high and about 3m across. The branches are leafy and often end in a spine. It has an extensive, deep, branched taproot that will sucker and produce new growth when broken. Roots on seedlings grow rapidly allowing them to compete with other plants.

#### CONTROL:

Non-chemical control: Hand pulling small juvenile plants. Deep rip the soil to bring remaining root fragments to the surface. Rake and burn the root pieces. Cultivation may cause deeper root fragments to shoot.

Chemical control:

- Cut and paint,
- Spray

(ALL herbicides applications should be carried out as stated within the manufacturers guidelines and the current chemical Material Data Safety Sheets.)