

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

Woolly nightshade

Solanum mauritianum

How do I identify woolly nightshade?

Tree that can grow up to 10 metres tall

Leaves: Grey-green and furry on top and light green underneath. Covered in thousands of fine hairs which may cause an allergic reaction to some people

Flowers: Purple and furry with a yellow centre

Fruits: Round, green berry later turning yellow, containing many small seeds

Stems: Rounded, soft wood

Roots: Taproot

Where found: Wasteland, gardens, pasture, forest edges, roadsides

What's the problem?

- Woolly nightshade forms dense stands which displace plants by out-competing them for light, nutrients and space
- It is spread many ways including contaminated soil, machinery, wildlife and people

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have woolly nightshade or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is woolly nightshade, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

Commonly called kerosene plant due to the smell of its leaves when they are crushed

