

Castor oil plant - *Ricinus communis*

Form: Soft-wooded shrub with hollow often reddish stems 1-4m tall.

Leaves: Very large (10-70cm across) on long stalks, with 7-9 toothed lobes, dark green..

Flowers: Spring and summer. In large obvious heads towards tips of stems, c. 1 cm across, softly spiny.

Fruits: Summer, autumn and winter. Rough to spiny woody fruits c.2.5cm across, splitting into three parts. Seeds spread in soil and sand and by water.

Impacts: Highly visible exotic. May smother native grasses if dense. Poisonous seed.

Control: Seedlings and small plants: pull or dig out. Larger plants: cut stump and poison or basal bark spray. See DPI Fact Sheet for current herbicide recommendations.

Ongoing management: Check area every second year and control new and regenerating plants before flowering.



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