

# GIANT DEVILS FIG

*Solanum chrysotichum*



## Description

Tall fast growing prickly shrub 3-4 m high. It has prickly stems and leaves, which are very hairy with stellate hairs (star-shaped) when young. Leaves broadly ovate, 7-13 deep lobes, upper leaf darker than underside, more densely hairy below. Flowering parts branched, flowers white, deeply incised. Berry round 10-15 mm diameter, yellow or orange-yellow with lots of pale yellow-light brown seeds.

## Flowering time

Autumn to spring.

## How is it spread

Giant devil's fig is spread by seed. Birds, flying foxes and other animals eat the fruit and spread the seed. Seeds spread by water and contaminated soil.

## Impacts

Rapidly invades disturbed sites especially grazing land, forming dense thickets that outcompete native vegetation.

## Habitat

Creek banks and disturbed sites.

## Origin

Central America. Introduced to the Far north Coast of NSW in around 1980.

## Similar species



Devil's fig *Solanum torvum* which has smaller leaves and flowers. Hairs on new growth are whitish or yellowish rather than red.



Tropical soda apple *Solanum viarum* which does not grow as tall and has larger fruit that are mottled when immature. The flowers are in clusters of up to 6 rather than up to 50 and the prickles are usually longer (12 mm).

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## Control Methods

### PHYSICAL REMOVAL

Seedlings and small plants can be dug out with a mattock. Larger plants can be cut down and all the roots dug up, leave roots off the ground. This plant has large prickles so extra sturdy gloves and long sleeves/pants are needed.

### CHEMICAL CONTROL

**Spot spray** actively growing plants, ensure all of the foliage is covered. See permit for further critical comments. Spraying will not kill the seeds in the fruit so it is important to collect the fruit and dispose of it.

**Cut, scrape & paint** stump or stem inject. This plant is prone to coppicing therefore stem injection may be more effective on mature plants.

## Best Season

Prior to fruiting. Spray actively growing plants.



## Herbicide

### WARNING - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural or veterinary chemical products must always read the label and any permit, before using the product, and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or the conditions of the permit by reason of any statement made or not made in this information. To view permits or product labels go to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website [www.apvma.gov.au](http://www.apvma.gov.au). See [Using herbicides](#) for more information.

PERMIT [12942](#) Expires 30/08/2025

## Biosecurity Duty

Regional priority weed objective:

### Containment

Byron Shire is in the core infestation zone. Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land. Land managers should reduce the impact of the plant on assets of high economic, environmental and/or social value.

The content provided here is for information purposes only and is taken from the Biosecurity Act 2015 and its subordinate legislation, and the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans (published by each Local Land Services region in NSW). It describes the state and regional priorities for weeds in New South Wales, Australia.

## More information

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.auhttps://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/GiantDevilsFig>