

Weeds of Sweetwater Creek: Boneseed and Bitou Bush

bitou bush (sp. <i>rotundifolia</i>)			boneseed (sp. <i>montiflora</i>)	
	spreading shrub, 1-2 m high	habit	erect shrub, up to 3 m high	
	3-7 cm long, broader oval shape, smooth or only slightly toothed edges	leaves	3-9 cm long, elongated oval shape, irregularly toothed edges	
	11-13 'petals' flowers year round with a peak from April to June	flowers	4-8 'petals' flowers from late winter to spring (mainland) to early summer (Tas)	
	egg-shaped fruit	fruit	round fruit	
	egg-shaped, rough, dark brown to black	seeds	round, smooth, bone-coloured	
	leaves with smooth edges	seedlings	leaves with toothed edges	

Habit: Both colonise large areas of bushland. Bitou Bush is more invasive and is immune to salt spray. Boneseed is common in Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve and can hybridise with Bitou Bush, so we must check for its presence although currently not seen.

Treatment: Both must be removed - roots, flowers, seeds – and bagged, but we must notify the DSE if Bitou Bush is discovered and they will remove it for us.