

## Control Techniques



A number of different methods may be used to control Bitou Bush. An integrated approach using a combination of each of these methods has been found to give the best results:

- Small infestations in areas of high conservation value are treated using labour intensive methods such as hand pulling and cut stump painting, etc.;
- Moderate infestations have been treated with ground vehicle application of high volume herbicides;
- Larger infestations have been treated by aerial spraying using low dose herbicides in Winter. This method has been applied successfully with minimal impact on surrounding natives.

Reintroduction of native plants is an essential follow-up strategy to prevent Bitou Bush or other weeds species from re-establishing.

### Biological Control

Bitou Tip Moth and Bitou Seed Fly have been incorporated into many control sites. Imported from South Africa, these insects help to reduce both the flowering and setting of seed.

Other biological controls are being tested for release. They are most useful in inaccessible areas, but on their own are not a complete solution to the problem.

## More Information

For more information on the control of Bitou Bush in your area, contact:

- Your local council
- Landcare
- Coastcare
- Dunecare
- Bushcare
- National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Write to the address below, or
- Visit these websites:

<http://www.tosustain.com/bitoubush/>

<http://www.tfga.com.au/lc/weeds2.htm>



*ABOVE: Aerial Spraying large and inaccessible Bitou Bush infestations.*

*TOP LEFT: Bitou Tip Moth as a biological control.*

*(Photos courtesy of R Holtkamp)*

### South Coast Bitou Bush Task Force

PO Box 148

KIAMA NSW 2533

Phone: (02) 4433 1129

Fax: (02) 4432 3665

E-mail: [bitoubush@tosustain.com](mailto:bitoubush@tosustain.com)

## Beating Bitou Bush On The NSW South Coast

### A Combined Forces Approach To Bitou Bush Control



Bitou Bush has been classified as a Noxious Weed in the New South Wales South Coastal Region. Efforts are under way to monitor and control the spread of Bitou Bush, using the resources of local councils, government agencies, private landholders and local groups such as Landcare, Coastcare, Dunecare and Bushcare.

**Find out how you can help in this valuable work of reclaiming YOUR beaches for native bushland species.**

*ABOVE: Volunteers investigating an affected site..  
(Photo courtesy of R Holtkamp)*

# A Snapshot On Bitou Bush

## The Plant

Bitou Bush is a native South African plant and has no natural predators in Australia

Bitou Bush is characterised by the following:

- It grows on sand dunes and margins of forest near to beaches
- It is a 1m to 2m high shrub
- It has bright green succulent, oval, tapering leaves
- It displays bright yellow daisy-like flowers during Autumn ( March through to May)
- It has a fleshy green fruit that turns black on ripening.

Bitou Bush is a prolific seed producer. A mature bush can produce 50,000 seeds in one season. Seeds are eaten by foxes and birds which then widely disperse the seeds in their droppings.

Germination of scattered seed is promoted by fire and soil disturbance.

*RIGHT: Picture shows the growth habit of Chrysanth-emoides Monelifera ssp. rotundata "Bitou Bush"*

*TOP RIGHT: Detail of leaf and flower*

*(Photos courtesy of Coastcare)*



## The Problem

Bitou Bush infests around 36,000 ha of the New South Wales Coastline.

On the NSW South Coast, specifically, it covers 10,400 ha, or 38%, of the coastline. Of this area 19% is heavily infested, having completely replaced the local native species.

Bitou Bush has therefore been declared a noxious weed on the NSW South Coast, with legal responsibility to control it.

In June 1999, Bitou Bush was listed as a Weed of National Significance - one of only 20 listed at this time.

# What Can You Do To Help?



We can only control Bitou Bush if we all work together. On the NSW South Coast, local government and care groups are working to control and reduce the threat of Bitou Bush to the well being of our coastal native species.

You can help pro-actively by joining a local care group, to assist in the monitoring of the spread of Bitou and personally take part in their organised control activities.

You can help indirectly by giving your support for your local council's control initiatives wherever possible.

*ABOVE: Volunteer inspecting native regrowth.  
(Photo courtesy of Dr J Wolfenden)*