

# Stinkwort

Leaves

*Dittrichia graveolens*

- Stinkwort is an erect, multi-branched, annual plant.
- It commonly grows to 50cm high but can occasionally grow taller.
- Light grey to green coloured leaves, up to 4cm long, are widely spaced along the stems.
- The whole plant is sticky to touch, and strongly aromatic with a camphor-like smell.
- Small yellow daisy flowers are produced in late summer and autumn.
- Fleabane (*Conyza* species) are similar in appearance but can be distinguished from stinkwort by their smaller white flowers lacking obvious petals, and absence of any sticky aromatic oils when handled.



Environmental Weed

## REMOVING STINKWORT

### By hand

- Isolated plants can be hand pulled before flowering and left on site to break down. Plants in flower should be removed from site as seed will develop from the nutrient reserves in the stem if left on the ground.
- Ensure flowering stinkwort are placed inside two sealed bags and disposed of in general waste. **Do not dispose of stinkwort via green waste.**
- Remember to wear gloves when handling the plant as some people are quite sensitive and it may take several months for the dermatitis to clear.

### Chemical

- The sticky oils on the foliage can make it difficult to control stinkwort with herbicides. However, selective herbicides containing Triclopyr (eg. Garlon) are effective if applied before flowering.

### Mechanical

- Large areas can be mowed or slashed before flowering, but this is effective only if plants are cut very close to the ground. Repeat treatment of regrowth may be needed a few weeks later.

## IMPACTS

- Livestock that eat the flowerheads can develop enteritis (inflammation of the small intestine) since the seed irritates and punctures the lining of the small intestine, eventually leading to pulpy kidney disease and sudden death, if untreated.
- While grazing animals appear to find stinkwort unpalatable, they will eat the plant only when little else is available. This often occurs in late summer and autumn coinciding with the stinkwort flowering period.
- The leaves contain an oil that can cause severe dermatitis in humans especially if handled when in flower.
- Stinkwort is mainly a weed of agricultural areas, but it can invade dry coastal vegetation, lowland grassland, and grassy woodland where it has the potential to negatively affect native ground cover species.

Flowers

## FLEABANE COMPARISON



*Dittrichia graveolens*

Fleabane  
(*Conyza* species)