

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED OF THE MONTH - Ochna

Ochna

Ochna serrulata

Common Names

Mickey Mouse Bush, Bird's Eye Bush, Ochna, Small Leaved Plant, Carnival Bush

Family

Ochnaceae

Origin

Southern Africa

Description

A small shrub, reaching up to 2m in height with pimply textured bark. Leaves are spirally arranged along the stems and are narrow and oblong in shape with fine toothed edges. Young leaves are bronze/pinkish in colour and mature to a glossy green. Five petalled, yellow flowers appear in Spring and drop off as the green fruit develops. The remaining sepals left behind turn a bright red colour as the fruit matures to dark green/black.

How do they spread?

Seeds are readily eaten and spread by birds or spread in garden waste.

Why are they an issue?

Establishes quickly and easily, creating dense stands that shade out native plants.

Where are they likely to occur?

Island wide



How can I control it?

1. Do not hand pull as roots break easily and will regrow. Dig out small plants.
2. Spot spray. Apply to seedlings/coppice shoots 200 mL glyphosate per 10 L of water.
3. Scrape stem, cut, and paint. 1 part glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water.
4. Cut stump saplings. Stem injection large trees and shrubs. 1 part glyphosate per 1.5 parts of water

Short seed viability (>1 year) so follow up for a short time should see them controlled.

Lilli-unna King

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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