

# Koster's curse

*Clidemia hirta*

## PROHIBITED MATTER IN NSW

Originating in tropical America, Koster's curse is a highly invasive shrub. In August 2001 an infestation was detected near Julatten, North Queensland, and was the subject of an eradication campaign; however it is possible it has become established elsewhere.



## Distribution

Not yet identified in NSW.

## Description

Koster's curse may appear as a weak and straggly small shrub, but it has the ability to form dense thickets in a similar manner to Lantana, smothering native vegetation and causing major problems for agriculture and native animal habitat.

It is a perennial shrub about 2m high but can grow to 5m in the shade.

The leaves are hairy above and below, and widest about the middle; 5-14cm long and 4-7cm wide.

It produces clusters of small white flowers (1.5cm) in the leaf forks.

Its hairy, blue-black berries, 4-5mm in diameter, contain hundreds of tiny seeds.

## Habitat

Koster's curse will invade disturbed areas, including the edges of clearings and stream banks, and along fence lines, paths and roadways. It has the potential to spread rapidly over many parts of Australia.

Potential habitat includes humid coastal sites in the Northern Territory, much of north-east Queensland, through to the Far North Coast of NSW.

## Reproduction and dispersal

Seeds are spread by fruit-eating birds and mammals. It can also reproduce vegetatively.





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### Declaration

#### Regional priority weed objective: Prevention

These weeds are not currently found in the state, or are present in small numbers, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention is a reasonably practical objective.

### Control

You must report this plant if you see it anywhere in NSW.

If you have seen, or think you have seen, Koster's curse please contact Rous County Council on (02) 6623 3800 for a positive identification and advice on control.

This serious weed could spread if control efforts do not follow all protocols. Not reporting it is a breach of your legal biosecurity duty.



#### For further information contact:

Rous County Council  
02 6623 3800

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au)

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