

Tropical Soda Apple and similar *Solanum* species

Tropical Soda Apple (*Solanum viarum*)

Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) is an erect shrub to 2m high covered in cream coloured prickles to 12mm long on stem and leaves. It has densely hairy lobed ovate leaves (10-20cm long and 6-15cm wide) and white flowers. The immature fruit is pale green with dark green veins, making it look like a watermelon. The mature fruit is yellow and golf ball size (20-30mm).



Similar plant with white flowers, but red fruit



Devil's Apple (*Solanum capsicoides*)

is an erect sparsely prickly **introduced** plant to 1m high. The prickles are yellowish, and the leaves are sparsely hairy and broad-ovate (15cm long and wide). Its flowers are white and the fruit is orange-scarlet.

Similar plants, but with purple flowers

There are more native *Solanum* species with prickles and purple flowers, but with smaller leaves



Apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*)

is an **introduced** prickly shrub to 1m high. It is similar in having yellow spines but has smaller leaves (4-8cm long, 3-6cm wide). It has purple flowers. The fruit is the same size as the TSA but does not have the distinct markings when immature, and turn brown or black as they mature.

Forest nightshade (*Solanum prinophyllum*)

is a **native** prickly sprawling plant to 0.5m high. It differs in having smaller less hairy leaves (5-8cm long, 3-5cm wide), blue-purple flowers, fruit that is green or purple (15-20mm in diameter), and the spines tend to be darker in colour.



Violet Nightshade (*Solanum brownii*)

is an erect **native** prickly shrub to 1.8m high. It has prickles on the stem and leaves. Its leaves can be entirely to deeply lobed (6-13cm long, 1.4-3cm wide). It has purple flowers (rarely white) with fruit that is green to yellow-green (18-29mm).

Narrawa Burr (*Solanum cinereum*)

is an erect **native** prickly shrub 1m high. It has ovate to elliptical lobed leaves (5.3-12.4cm long, 3.5-6cm wide) with purple flowers. The fruit is 15-24mm in diameter, pale green to greenish-white.



Solanum campanulatum

is an erect very prickly **native** shrub to 1m high. Its hairy leaves are lobed-ovate to elliptical (13cm long, 5-9cm wide) and has purple flowers. Its fruit is 25-29mm, going from green to yellow to black with maturity.