

## *Cestrum parqui*

Family name: Solanaceae  
Scientific Name: *Cestrum parqui* L'Hér.  
Common names: Inkbessie; Chilean Cestrum

**Weed Status:** *Cestrum parqui* is a Category 1 invasive plant in South Africa.

Plants that are officially classified as weeds are divided into three categories. There is an exception in the regulations regarding biological control reserves. These are areas where permission is granted for declared plants not to be controlled because they are used for introducing and monitoring biological control agents (e.g. insects).

**Category 1 declared plants** (Section 15A of the amended act):

- may not occur on any land or inland water surface other than in biological control reserves.
- must be controlled by the land user on whose land or inland water such plants are growing.
- may not be planted or propagated.
- may not be imported or sold; and
- may not be acquired.
- can be exempted from the above regulations through written exemption from "the executive officer", provided there is a good reason for it.

### **Control requirements:**

**Individual plants and small infestations:** Totally control (remove/destroy) individual plants

**Large infestations:** Contain existing infestation (s) and decrease the weed incidence by implementing a control programme directed by local authorities.

**Sale:** Do not sell or knowingly distribute *Cestrum parqui* plants.

### **Control Methods/ Techniques:**

**Manual:** The manual/mechanical removal, and burning or disposal at an approved landfill, of plants is the most effective. Be sure to remove all plant parts and fruit. As much of the root system as possible should also be removed.

**Indigenous replacements:** *Pavetta gardeniifolia* (Christmas bride's bush), *Pavetta lanceolata* (forest bride's bush), *Freylinia lanceolata* (honeysbells).

**Optimum months for control:**

**Plan period**

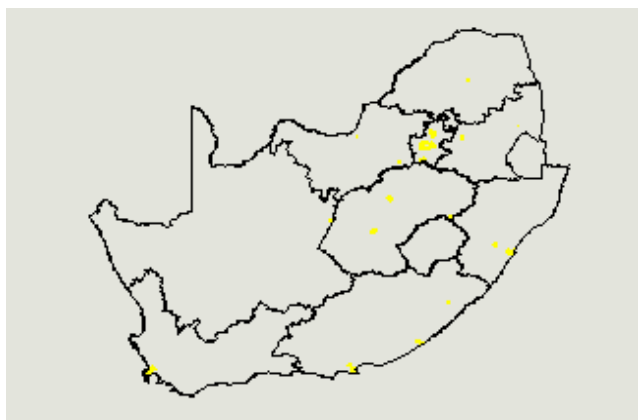
**Start date:**

**Completion date:**

**Area of origin:** South America (Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil)

**Habitat:** Grassland, rivers, roadsides, urban open space; for many years only recorded on the Vaal River and highveld. Now becoming very weedy around Pretoria.

**Known distribution in South Africa**



**Environmental/ economic impact:**

**Current:** Competes with and replaces indigenous species. Poisonous to livestock.

**Plant characteristics:**

**Life span:**

**Growth form:** Sparsely hairy evergreen shrub or small tree 1-2 m tall.

**Leaves:** Alternate - Light or dark green, mainly along the distal ends of branches; narrowly lanceolate, up to 15-25 mm

**Flowers:** Yellow or greenish-yellow; sometimes yellow-brown or russet-red outside and yellow inside; in axillary and terminal clusters, October-May.

**Fruit:** berries, 10 mm long, green turning purple-black

**Thorns:** None

**Poisonous:** Yes - Whole plant

**Animal usage:** Birds eat the berries.



### **Applicable legislation:**

The Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No. 43 of 1983, as amended in March 2001,

- This act explains the regulations about the control of weeds and invasive plants in South Africa. See also section 15A of the amended act

The Biodiversity act (100 of 2004)

The National Veld and Forest Act (101 of 1998)

The National Water Act (36 of 1998)

The National Environment Management Act (104 of 1998)

The Agricultural Pest Act (36 of 1983)

### **Private landowners:**

### **Government/ municipal land:**

### **References and sources:**

AGIS WIP Website ([www.agis.agric.za/wip](http://www.agis.agric.za/wip));

