



WEEDS

AFRICAN VELDST DAISY

Glossary

Decumbent

Laying or growing on the ground but the tips are erect or growing upright.

Florets

One of the small reduced flowers.

Nodes

The part of the stem that gives rise to the leaf and bud.

Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

Sessile

Without a stalk.

Succulent

Fleshy parts of a plant with a thickly cellular construction.

For More Information

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Osteospermum ecklonis

Introduction

The flowers of the African veldst Daisy resemble common daisies and they belong to the Daisy family, *Compositae*.

They are occasionally found around settlements, often growing from dumped garden rubbish. The plants grow mostly in sandy soil on steep slopes or at the base of cliffs.

Contains hydrocyanic acid and is poisonous to cattle.

Origin

South Africa.

Life form

Woody perennial herb/shrub.

Description

Soft; spreading; up to 1 m high and as much in diameter; erect to decumbent. It can get woody at the base.

Leaves: Alternately arranged;

sessile; slightly succulent; crowded at the ends of the branches; the lower branches are quite nude.

Flowers/Seed heads: Bluish/purple-white ray florets and blue disc florets; up to 8 cm in diameter; borne singly or in a few groups at the end of the branches on short stalks (peduncles).

Reproduction & Dispersal

Via seeds. Butterflies are attracted to the flowers and pollinate this species.

The fruits have no special adaptations for dispersal and seedlings are often found near the parent plants.

Small wings are present on the three corners of the fruits which might assist in wind dispersal.

Growing Habit

Able to root at nodes.

Distribution

Clustered populations around Perth; some further south.

Flowering Season

Winter and Spring.

Fruits

The fruits of the ray florets are about 7 x 3 mm; smooth; triangular.

Control

Manual Removal

By hand pulling small infestations.

Chemical Treatment

Spot spray with glyphosate before flowering.

Please see "Herbicides and Pesticides" fact sheet for more information about spraying chemicals.



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