



WANTED

CAPE TULIPS

Glossary

Annual

Completing the full cycle of germination to fruiting to a single year, and then dying.

Basal

Arising from the base of the plant.

Bulbils

Small deciduous bulbs.

Corms

Storage organ formed from enlarged stem base.

Cormels

Produced from previous years corm (asexual).

For More Information

Contact

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Shire of Kalamunda Bushcare Co-ordinator
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Introduction:

Previously assigned to the genus *Homeria*. Originally introduced as a garden plant in the 1800's. The One-Leaf Cape Tulip is the more invasive and prevalent weed species.

Cape Tulips are now a weed of pastures, roadsides, granite rocks, limestone heath and disturbed bushland. They are toxic to livestock that have recently been introduced to the plant, which generally avoid them.

Origin

South Africa.

Status

Declared agricultural weed by Agricultural Protection Board (APB). One Leaf Cape Tulip is a priority weed species for the Shire of Kalamunda and the Shire of Mundaring.

Lifform

Perennial herb

Description

Herb with basal leaf(s) and branched flowering stem.

Leaves: One-Leaf: single; linear; up to 70 cm tall.
Two-Leaf: 2-3; linear.

Flowers/Seedheads: Salmon-orange; yellow in centre. One-Leaf: petals up to 4 cm long. Two-Leaf: petals up to 2.5 cm long.

Prior to flowering, Cape Tulip can be recognised by the browning off of the leaf tips.

Reproduction & Dispersal

One-Leaf: Reproduces by seeds and corms. Corms are often found in hay cut from infested paddocks.

Two-Leaf: Reproduces by corms, cormels and bulbils at the leaf nodes. There are often many dormant cormels in the soil.

Distribution

One-Leaf: North of Perth - Albany (particularly in the Avon/Swan valley and upper great southern).

Two-Leaf: Inland Of Geraldton - Esperance. .

Growing Season

Autumn

Flowering Season

After 2-3 years growth.

One-Leaf: September - November.

Two-Leaf: July—November.

Effects on Ecosystem

The many dormant corms in the soil can prevent native seed establishment.

Control

Manual control

Removal is difficult due to many dormant corms in soil. Dig plants with surrounding



soil, when moist or sandy, before flowering, ensuring that all corms are removed, and incinerate.

Cultivation to 150 mm provides control if done after the old corm shrivels and is exhausted and before the new corms form (often June/July, but also September). Dig up plant to determine their stage. Burn trash.

Physical removal of Two-leaved Cape tulip may cause spread of cormels.

Chemical control

Treat just on flowering, at corm exhaustion. Hand spray in June-early September.

Control usually takes several years and follow up is essential for good control.

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



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