



Purpleflower devil's claw

Autumn is the ideal time to look for the invasive purple flower devil's claw! This species is known to out-compete with irrigated vegetables and other crops, is difficult to control and is equipped with distinctive hard seed pods capable of damaging machinery during harvesting and injuring livestock. It's not one we wish to see established in Western Australia.

Purpleflower devil's claw (*Proboscidea louisianica*), has previously been found growing in a Denmark backyard and a commercial property in Carnarvon. Its distinctive dried fruits are still sold as novelties in the plant's native range and where it's established as a weed, and have been confiscated from tourists at Perth airport in the past. There are at least three exotic plants known as devil's claw present in Australia, only Purpleflower devil's claw has been found in WA and is one of the targets of the Boosting Biosecurity Defences Agricultural weed surveillance project funded by Royalties for Regions (For further information see: <https://agric.wa.gov.au/n/3835>).



Photo caption: Purpleflower devil's claw have creamy white to mauve-purple purple trumpet shaped flowers and claw like seed pod.

How you can help

Photograph any suspicious plants and report using the free **MyPestGuide Reporter** App or email photos to info@agric.wa.gov.au . Alternatively you can call 1800 084 881.

Plant description

Purpleflower devil's claw is an erect, low-growing plant (up to 50 cm high) and is similar in appearance to a pumpkin plant. The leaves are rounded to heart shaped, 5 to 25cm across, on stalks up to 20cm long. The whole plant is covered with glandular hairs that exude a sticky sap. The flowers are similar in appearance to jacaranda flowers and may be creamy white to mauve-purple spotted with dark purple and orange. The fruits are brown or black, 8 to 30cm long, and have a rough woody inner part covered by a fleshy layer.

The immature fruit of purpleflower devil's claw is shaped like a bird's head. As it matures the long curved 'beak' splits to form two hard claws. The seeds are inside the 'head' and come out between the claws. The seeds are blackish, about the same size as a watermelon seed, smooth on one side and rough on the other.

Other devil's claws

Smallfruit devil's claw (*Martynia annua*) occurs in the NT, Queensland and NSW. It is native to Mexico. Yellow flower devil's claw (*Ibicella lutea*), looks very similar to purpleflower devil's claw and grows in similar situations. It has yellow flowers with orange spots in the centre and is a weed in Queensland, NSW and Victoria. All three species are Declared Plants for the whole of WA and would be targeted for eradication if found.



Report biosecurity concerns or unfamiliar pests, weeds or diseases, using our MyPestGuide Reporter mobile App, or contact the Pest and Disease Information Service: 1800 084 881, info@agric.wa.gov.au. Visit our webpage: agric.wa.gov.au/n/1207. Department of Agriculture and Food, WA. 3 Baron-Hay Court, South Perth WA 6151.