

Green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*)



Gives off an offensive smell during the day



Flowers are tubular with five small petals

Green cestrum is a perennial shrub, usually 1-3 m tall that grows amongst scrub, in waste areas and on stream banks, usually near the gardens it escaped from.

This plant is extremely toxic to farm animals. Both its leaves and flowers are offensive smelling during the day, although the greenish-yellow flowers become fragrant at night. These flowers are tubular with five small petals, with the petal margins bent backwards. The flowers are borne in loose clusters at the ends of branches and are followed by glossy purplish-black berries. The similar, more common queen-of-the-night (*Cestrum nocturnum*) has white berries.

Birds spread the seeds.

Naturalised populations of this plant are extremely rare in New Zealand, but it has the potential to become a serious problem. If you think you have found a new occurrence, contact your Regional Council immediately.