

Horse nettle (*Solanum carolinense*)



Both stems and leaves are prickly

Horse nettle is a prickly, herbaceous shrub that can grow up to 1m tall.

The shrub has an extensive branching root system from which new shoots arise. Both stems and leaves are prickly. The leaves are hairy on both sides, roughly oblong in shape and with prickles on the veins. The white or pale bluish flowers appear in mid-summer and are followed by yellow or orange berries.

Birds and animals consume the berries and spread the seed. Rhizome fragments can be spread by farm machinery

Horse nettle is very rare in New Zealand, but could become a very serious pest. Anybody who thinks they have found new plants should contact their Regional Council immediately.