

Castor oil plant

Ricinus communis

Castor oil plant is declared a Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory.

Castor oil plant is a declared weed in accordance with the *Weeds Management Act*.

HABIT



A tall, branching shrub reaching 2 - 3m in height, but can grow taller in favourable conditions.

STEMS & BRANCHES



Stems are hollow, with leaves arranged alternately along branches.

LEAVES



Leaves are alternate and glossy, maturing from dark reddish-brown to green, with a distinctive unpleasant odour.

Leaves are divided into 7-9 toothed lobes with a central vein.

FLOWERS



Flowers are crowded in spikes in the forks of upper branches, females at the top of the spikes, males at the bottom. Neither type has petals.

FRUIT & SEED



Egg-shaped, 3-lobed fruits, about 2.5cm long, covered in red or green soft spines.

Each lobe contains one seed. Fruits explode when mature, throwing seeds several metres.

Seeds are toxic to animals and humans.

Weed Management Officers from the Weed Management Branch can provide advice on all aspects of weed management including control techniques, biological control, legislative responsibilities, policy advice, monitoring and reporting and regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the [NT Weed Management Handbook](#).