## Bellyache Bush Jatropha gossypiifolia

## **HABIT**

Bellyache bush is an erect, perennial shrub that can grow up to 4m in height, with most plants averaging between 2 - 3m.



Bellyache bush is a multistemmed bush. The stems, leaf stalks and

leaf margins are covered with coarse, gland tipped, sticky, brown hairs.



Leaves alternate, and are divided into 3 - 5 segments. Leaf lobes are pointed. The 'Darwin Purple' has predominantly purple/red

foliage and the 'Katherine

Green' has green foliage.

Bellyache bush is declared a Class A (to be eradicated), Class B (growth and spread to be controlled) and Class C (not to be introduced) weed in the Northern Territory and is a Weed of National Significance in Australia.

Bellyache bush is a declared weed in accordance with the Weeds Management Act.

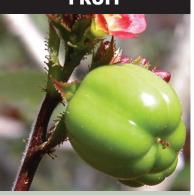
Bellyache bush reduces production values and increases land management costs. Bellyache bush populations can gradually replace native plant communities, forming dense monospecific stands which can negatively impact ecological functioning and pastoral production. Bellyache bush is poisonous to both humans and stock if ingested.

## **FLOWERS**



The small, red flowers have vellow centres and are found in clusters around the top part of the plant.

## **FRUIT**



The fruit capsules are oblong, approximately 1cm in diameter and contain 3 - 4 seeds

Each seed is about 8mm long.

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 regional planning. For further information on weed management planning, integrated control, herbicide application techniques and monitoring please refer to the NT Weed Management Handbook. The Bellyache bush Weed Management Plan and Management Guide can be found at www.nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weed-management-planning.

W: www.nt.gov.au/weeds