

Beggars' ticks

Bidens frondosa

Family Asteraceae

Identification

- Upright annual up to 2 m tall, usually with reddish stems (looks similar to a garden dahlia)
- Branches arranged opposite to each other
- Leaves opposite, divided into 3 (or 5) leaflets, with toothed edges
- Small, yellow/orange daisy-like flowers occur from November – May
- Seeds have 2 prongs that are barbed
- Plants die back in winter



Beggars' ticks flowers and seed. Photos: K.



Photo: K. McCombs

Why is it a problem?

Beggars' ticks is a threat to wetlands and waterways. It grows quickly, pushing out existing native plant species and prevents new plants from establishing. It also produces barbed seeds which are easily transported on clothing and animals, assisting with distribution.

Where is it found?

Usually in damp sites such as sides of drains, streams, ponds, swamps, wetlands, low-lying areas and possibly even in gardens.

Status

Beggars' ticks has no legal control requirements, however it is a weed in some situations, especially in wetlands.

Control

Remove the entire plant; they are easy to pull out, and dispose of material appropriately. Take special care with the flowerheads and seeds as this plant spreads by seed.



Beggars' ticks growing near a waterway. Photo: K. McCombs