

Gomphocarpus fruticosus

COMMON NAMES

Swan plant, narrow leaf cotton bush

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Semi-woody short-lived shrub with almost glabrous opposite leaves; all green parts exude a milky poisonous latex when broken. Pods (actually follicles) inflated, soft-bristly and 'swan-shaped', packed with black seeds each bearing a white coma ('parachute').

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

GENUS

Gomphocarpus

FAMILY

Apocynaceae

AUTHORITY

Gomphocarpus fruticosus (L.) R.Br.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

Southern Africa

POISONOUS PLANT

The tissues are full of a poisonous white milky latex making all parts of the plant toxic including the bladder-like fruits.

MORE INFORMATION

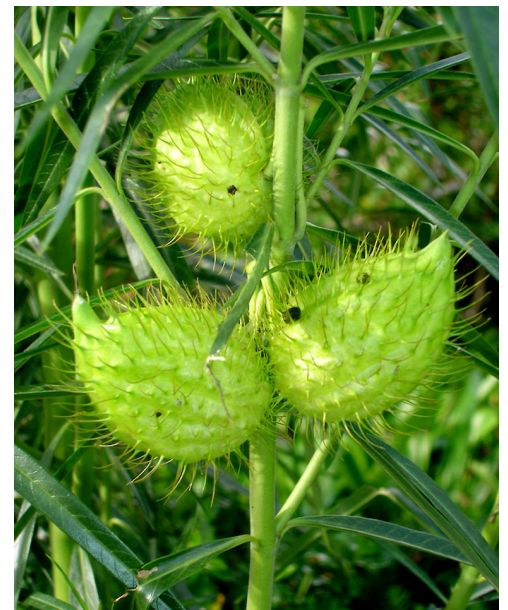
<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gomphocarpus-fruticosus/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026



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