



WEED ALERT!

Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)



Have you seen this plant?

Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) has recently been found in the Balingup area. This is a new weed for Western Australia. A collaborative program to eradicate this weed is now underway with government and industry working together.

The aim is to control all pokeweed plants prior to them setting seed this summer.

This plant is toxic to both humans and livestock and can contaminate agricultural produce.

What to look for

- Large perennial shrub up to 2.5 metres.
- Large bright green leaves (up to 40cm long) on a smooth purplish stem.
- White to magenta flowers in elongated clusters that hang from the branches.
- Deep purple – black berries form in summer and are the most distinctive characteristic.

Similar weeds

Pokeweed is similar to inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*), which is a widespread weed in the South West. Pokeweed is taller, has larger leaves, and the berry stalks hang down.

Help to eradicate this weed!

- **Be aware** of any new or unusual plants.
- **Note** the location of the plant (using a GPS if possible).
- **Take photographs** (leaves, flowers, fruit and whole plant).
- **DO NOT** collect seeds, berries or leaves as they are all poisonous.
- **Report** to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development by:
 - ▶ Phone: **(08) 9368 3080**
 - ▶ Report online: mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au or using the **MyPestGuide™ Reporter** app
 - ▶ Email: padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

