

Mexican daisy

Erigeron karvinskianus

Family

Asteraceae (daisy)

Also known as

Seaside daisy

Where is it originally from?

Mexico

What does it look like?

Sprawling perennial daisy (<40 cm tall) with fibrous roots, and long thin stems (from 15-70 cm long) that are sparsely hairy to hairless, much-branching and root at nodes. Small, narrow leaves (upper leaves usually 3-lobed) are fragrant when crushed. White, white-purplish or pink daisy-like flowers with a central yellow disc (Jan-Dec) are followed by masses of fluffy seeds.

Are there any similar species?

Bellis daisy (*Bellis perennis*) has nearly identical flowers, but wider leaves in a basal rosette.

Why is it weedy?

Forms dense mats and produces huge amounts of seed that travel for long distances. Wide ecological versatility, tolerating moderate shade to full sun, damp to drought conditions, sand to mud, almost any surface (tree and fern trunks, loose gravel, and so on), high to low temperatures.

How does it spread?

Seed is spread by wind and occasionally water. Seed sources include gardens, roadsides, and contaminated topsoil and potting mix. Fragments may also be spread by greenwaste dumping.

What damage does it do?

Forms dense mats in a huge range of habitats. While it isn't very long-lived itself, it opens habitats up to invasion by vines and other weeds. It replaces vulnerable herbs, shrubs, etc in key and isolated places.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Intact and disturbed bush, shrubland, tussockland, fernland, herbfield, bare land, streamsides, cliffs and bluffs, inshore and offshore islands, gumlands, consolidated sand dunes, most coastal areas, riverbeds, and places where epiphytes would usually be found.

What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Dig out small spots: Avoid any unnecessary soil disturbance, Leave on site to rot down. plant material carefully. If seed is present, dispose of all plant material at a refuse transfer centre or burn it.
2. Spray: clopyralid (1ml/L). Selective.
3. Spray: glyphosate (10ml/L + penetrant in winter) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g/10L + penetrant (knapsack) or 15g/100L + penetrant (spraygun)).

What can I do to stop it coming back?

Easy to kill but difficult to keep out. Can be crowded out with low, dense plants.



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis

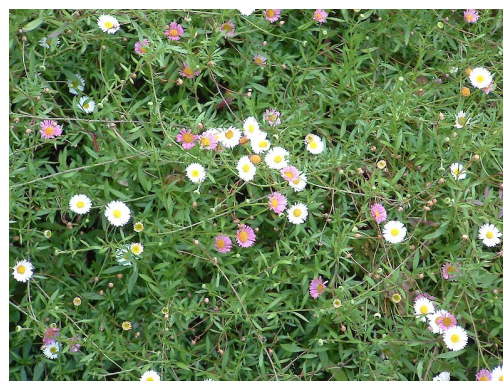


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