

Seen this plant? Mother-of-millions

Bryophyllum spp.



How does this weed affect us?

Prolific reproductive potential – both vegetatively and by seed which survives for many years in the soil to germinate under favourable conditions. Often kept as an ornamental species in private gardens due to extended flowering and hardiness which facilitates spread and incursions into new landscapes.

- Well adapted to Australian environments – tolerating dry conditions and extended drought.
- Poisonous (especially flowers). Bufadienolides found in the plant tissues cause heart failure.

- Livestock death can be sudden if enough plant material is ingested ($\geq 5\text{kg}$ sufficient to kill mature cattle).
- Smaller amounts ingested over several days can have a cumulative effect – causing lethargy, drooling, diarrhoea and eventual death if cardiac damage is sufficient.
- Poisonous to humans and companion animals (especially dogs).
- Perennial species with many years of viable vegetative spread and viable seed output potential.
- Costly to control – follow up treatment often required.

Seen it? Call us:

**Cootamundra-Gundagai
Biosecurity Officer:**

1300 459 689

**NSW DPI Biosecurity
Helpline:**

1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW WeedWise:

weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MotherOfMillions

Where are you likely to find it?

Mother of millions is a native of Africa and Madagascar and was introduced to Australia as a garden plant. It is a serious weed on the coast and the northwest slopes and plains of NSW. Mother of millions is commonly found growing on gravel and sandy soils. It is a weed of bushland and disturbed sites such as roadsides, along fence lines, around rubbish tips and abandoned rural dwellings. It also occurs frequently along creeks and rivers where it is spread by floodwaters.

What does it look like?

Succulent perennial plant growing 30cm to 1m in height. Leaves are pencil shaped and pale green to brown with characteristic darker green patches. Leaves also distinguishable by a shallow groove on their upper surface. ≤ 7 projections at the leaf tips which are capable of forming new plants if broken away from the “mother” plant. Stems are pink-brown fading to grey with maturity. Flowers are orange-red and occur in clusters at the top of the stems. Flowering can occur from May-October. For more information visit NSW Weed Wise.



Regional Recommended Measure* (for Regional Priority - Eradication)

Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land. Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant. A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant. Notify local control authority if found. Your local biosecurity weeds officer can help to identify, advise on control, and how to remove this weed.



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