

Inkweed

February 6, 2012



Inkweed – *Phytolacca octandra*

A common weed that has emerged and become conspicuous since the 2009 fires are Ink-weed *Phytolacca octandra*. This erect, herbaceous perennial from tropical America used to be a noxious weed in Victoria. It is still considered to be a troublesome weed. It infests bare soil areas and is spread by birds colonising large areas Ink-weed can grow up to 2 metres high and has brittle spreading branches. Red coloured stems which grow from a well-developed tap-root. It has smooth bright green leaves. Greenish white flowers occur close together on upright tapered spikes between August and November. The fruits are dark purple to black berries which exude a red-purple juice. This plant can turn up in gardens and bushland unnoticed and can dominate large areas inhibiting the growth of more desirable species. Ink-weed can be grubbed out being careful to get as much of the tap-root as possible. It will also respond well to being sprayed with an appropriate herbicide. Brush Off (Metsulfron Methyl) can be effective. (Text Source from SGLN weeds website)



Phytolacca octandra – Inkweed, This clump of Inkweed has gotten away and produced hundreds of new seeds. Inkweed now chokes this small gully.

Phytolacca octandra – Inkweed,
Flower spike with newly forming berries.





Phytolacca octandra – Inkweed, This inkweed needs to be controlled now before it flowers and sets seed. If hand-pulling make sure the tap-root is removed.

Phytolacca octandra – Inkweed, Showing the shiny purple-black berries.

