

*\*Brassica tournafortii* Gouan

WILD TURNIP

Reissek.

**Flowering period:** September–October.

**Description:** Annual herb to 60 cm high with a basal rosette and strong taproot. Stem and leaves covered in stiff hairs. Rosette highly variable depending on light, moisture and nutrients up to 80 cm diameter. Leaves appressed or semi-upright depending on light conditions 10–20 cm long by 5 cm wide and deeply lobed. Flowering stems erect to 50 cm high, multi-branching with many small, four-petaled, pale yellow flowers that are followed by 8–10 cm long dehiscent pods that can shatter upon touch, but often remain closed till rainy conditions to release many small, spherical, brown seeds. A feature of the species is that the stems dry, snap and, because of the somewhat spherical arrangement of the flower stalks, enable the seed head to be wind-blown for considerable distances, releasing seed as the head bounces.

**Distribution:** Widespread from Shark Bay to the Bight and common following soil disturbance. An aggressive weed that has a long-lived seed bank and, though capable of growing in any soil type, is particularly vigorous in coastal alkaline soils.

**Control methods:** Manual removal or wiping of broadleaf or general herbicide. The long-lived seed bank and response to disturbance means that in restoration programs the weed will often appear following restoration. If not removed the very large number of seeds (estimated at more than 10 000 per large plant) can result in a long-term residual risk.

**Notes:** A native of the Mediterranean region and now a weed of all Mediterranean regions of the world and also in drier temperate areas. Highly invasive.



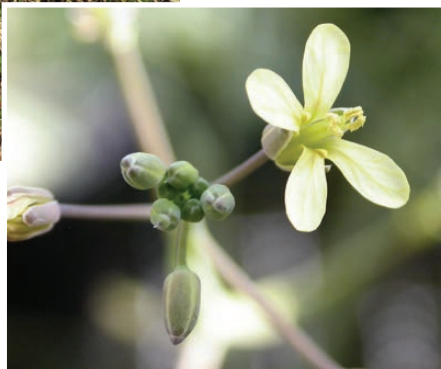
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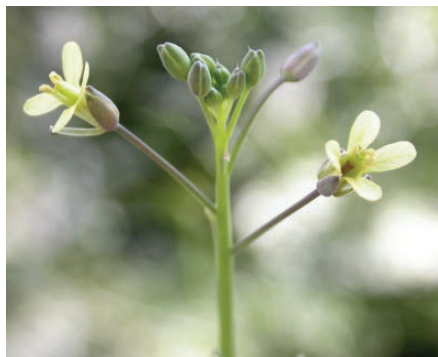
Seed



Habit



Flowers



Flowers



Distribution