

Queen of the night

Cereus jamacaru



Alternative common names:

Peruvian apple cactus (English); nagblom; bobbejaanpaal (Afrikaans)

A spiny tree 3-7m high with thick, succulent branches arising from a short, woody trunk. Spines are in groups of 5-10 and the cut stems don't exude a milky latex. No leaves but showy white flowers appear at night from November to January and produces yellowish-pink succulent berries. This cactus invades savanna and rocky ridges

Where does this species come from?

South America

How does it spread?

The seeds are spread by birds and monkeys that feed on the fruits

Why is it a problem?

It competes with and replaces indigenous species, forming dense infestations which reduces the carrying capacity of the land and the many spines on the plants cause injuries to grazing animals

How to control?

Small plants can easily be dug out. Once out, throw the plants in the road where vehicles can destroy them.

When the plants are large, they are very difficult to control. We use a slash and poison method. Anybody needing assistance with this are welcome to contact the Honorary Rangers for assistance.

Dense infestations are treated with biocontrol.

Plant me instead alternatives

Common tree euphorbia (*Euphorbia ingens*)

