

Tasmanian Weeds
CAPE WEED

Genus / Species:

Arctotheca calendula (L.) Levyns / *Cryptostemma calendula* (L.) Druce)

Family:

Asteraceae (Compositae)

Annual

Cape Weed is distributed throughout Tasmania and is most often seen on light sandy soils. It occurs in pasture and grain crops, sometimes in other crops, and in areas considered to be wasteland.

It is extremely prolific in young pastures and cereal crops. An increase in this species is often seen when changing from cattle to sheep.



Germination occurs in early autumn.

Cape Weed is sometimes confused with Hedge Mustards when in the rosette stage but is easily distinguished by the mat of hairs on the under side of the leaf.

The cotyledon is 10 to 20 mm long overall with an indistinct and merging petiole 1 to 2 mm long, and is hairless. The seedling has a short hypocotyl and no epicotyl. The first leaves are paired and are 10 to 20 mm long overall with a short petiole. Later leaves grow singly. The upper surface has short, rather mealy hairs, while the under surface is covered with a matted web of long hairs which give it a silvery appearance. The first leaves are simple or lobed or scolloped with later leaves pinnately lobed or pinnate. The plant develops as a rosette 200 to 300 mm or more in diameter.

The mature plant is semi-erect or prostrate in habit with several branched stems which reach a length of 400mm. The stems are circular or fluted in cross section, often striated or partly striated, and have a small hollow core. They are covered with long hairs which form a loose webby covering. The stem leaves reach a length of 250 mm. The lower leaves are petiolate but the upper leaves, in which the lobes are reduced or absent, are sessile. The leaves carry numerous short multi-cellular and fine cobwebby hairs on the upper surface, and a mat of fine hairs on the lower.

The inflorescences are composite and terminal on the branches, 40 to 60 mm in diameter, with a single row of ray florets which are yellow and usually black towards the centre.

Organic Eradication Methods:

Organic eradication can be helped by:

- Avoiding tilling when weeds have seed heads
- Remove plant by hand when flowering (before seeding)
- If in lawn, spray with full strength vinegar or add a place half a cup of salt on top of plant.

References:

Images - www.weeds.asn.au

Text sourced from - Tasmanian Weed Handbook (Department of Agriculture – Tasmania)

An Organic Weed Control Fact Sheet provided by: [Lifestyle Home Services](#)



[MiOrganicFuture](#)