

# FACT SHEET

## Weeds & Pest Plants of Norfolk Island

### Black Bean

(*Castanospremum australe*)

**Common names:**

Black Bean, Moreton Bay Chestnut

**Family:**

Black Bean, Moreton Bay Chestnut

**Origin:**

Australia

**In brief:**

An Australian native species that grows to 10m when planted as a garden ornamental or up to 40m in a natural rain forest setting.

**Flowers:**

The flowers are large, orange and red, pea-flower shaped, clustered on older branches.

**Leaves:**

The leaves consist of 7–17 large leaflets alternating on the rachis. Leaflets are 9–

15cm long and 3–5cm wide, dark green, and asymmetric at the base.

**Fruit/Berries:**

The fruit are large, heavy, rounded pods, usually 12–18cm long and 4–6cm wide; containing 3–5 large, dark brown seeds about 3cm in diameter.

**Other:**

The sap is clear.

**Description:**

Black Bean is a large tree, reaching up to 40m in ideal conditions. It has dark green, pinnate leaves 30–60cm long, with 9–17 leaflets 7–20cm long. Its trunk can reach up to 1.5m in diameter with brown/grey bark that is relatively smooth in appearance with vertical markings.



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Page 2

Masses of red, orange and yellow flowers bloom in Spring, often partially obscured by the thick foliage. Flowers are typical in appearance of the pea family, tube-like and up to 4cm long. These give way to large yellow/green seedpods that mature to brown. Each pod contains 2-6 large seeds.

### How do they spread?

Spread by seed only. Seeds are large and heavy so fall almost directly underneath the tree.

Black Beans are often planted on river/stream banks to secure them and the seeds can be spread easily downstream.

Children are often attracted to the large seeds and pods and they are easily taken home to be discarded later down the valley or backyard.

### Why are they an issue?

They are large trees, capable of shading out surrounding native vegetation. Their size makes them competitors for sunlight, water and nutrients.

### Where are you likely to find it?

On Norfolk Island, there is a stand of Black Bean growing in 100 Acre Reserve, planted when the reserve was used as an experimental forestry zone. People have been collecting and propagating the seeds for their valleys and creek banks.

### How can I control it?

1. Hand weed young seedlings
2. Cut and paint stump of mature plants with 1 part Glyphosate to 1.5 parts water.
3. Avoid collecting and propagating seeds.

### Toxicity

If eaten, the seeds can cause severe diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain and dizziness. The sawdust can cause dermatitis, eczema and nasal irritation.

*(Source: Qld Health)*

