

# Gomphocarpus fruticosus

## COMMON NAME

Swan plant, narrow leaf cotton bush

## FAMILY

Apocynaceae

## AUTHORITY

Gomphocarpus fruticosus (L.) R.Br.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Semi-woody short-lived shrub with almost glabrous opposite leaves; all green parts exude a milky poisonous latex when broken. Pods (actually follicles) inflated, soft-bristly and 'swan-shaped', packed with black seeds each bearing a white coma ('parachute').

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## YEAR NATURALISED

1870

## ORIGIN

Southern Africa

## POISONOUS PLANT

The tissues are full of a poisonous white milky latex making all parts of the plant toxic including the bladder-like fruits.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gomphocarpus-fruticosus/>



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