

Alien Invasive Plants in Namibia

This list contains the names of some of the most common and problematic alien invasive weeds in Namibia. This list has been compiled particularly for the northern and north-central parts of Namibia. The list is not comprehensive.

Species	Common Name	Description (The numbers in brackets indicate the typical height)
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Brazilian pepper tree	Tree (3-6m). Dark green glossy leaves, bunches of red berries
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	Tree (6m). Fine compound leaves and purple flowers
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	Black wattle	Tree 5m). Compound leaves, yellow pom-pom flowers, many pods
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Syringa	Tree (3-7m). Lilac flowers, Marble-sized yellow / orange berries remain on the tree for a year or more. <i>Berries are believed to be poisonous to humans.</i>
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Wild tobacco	Tree (3-6m). Slender tree with greyish leaves, yellow tubular flowers
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor-oil plant	Bush (2-4m). Large palmate leaves with about 7 points, large spiky pods.
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Mesquite	Tree (6m). Compound leaves, thorny, long pods like acacias. <i>Very difficult to eradicate once introduced!</i>
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Common lantana	Bush (1-4m). Rough leaves, square stems (in cross section) with rows of small thorns on the corners of the stems. Pink & yellow flowers. Green fruit – 5mm, turns black when ripe.
<i>Datura ferox</i> <i>Datura stramonium</i>	Large thorn-apple Common thorn-apple	Bush (1,5m). Large soft leaves, spiky pods, large white trumpet-shaped flowers. <i>Seed and seedlings are poisonous & have caused fatalities to humans. Also invades crops.</i>
<i>Cereus jamacara</i>	Queen of the night	Tall cactus (6-7m). Fluted stems with long spines / thorns. Large attractive flowers.
<i>Harrisia martinii</i>	Moon cactus	Bushy scrambling cactus (1-2m). Very thorny.
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly pear	Cactus bush (1,5-3m). Large, oval succulent leaves. Yellow or orange flowers, Large edible but thorny fruit.
<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> <i>Opuntia imbricata</i>	Jointed prickly pear / Imbricate prickly pear. Both are also know as "Jointed cactus"	Bushy scrambling cactus (0,5-3m). slender thorny stems.
		Note that all cactuses are alien to Namibia. They must not be confused with Euphorbias which are indigenous and have a cactus-like appearance.

For more details on these plants – identification, description, and control and eradication measures, refer to **Problem Plants of South Africa** (Bromilow 2001) Briza, Pretoria. This book is available in Namibia.