

Bridal Creeper

Series: Environmental Weed Factsheet
Ranked 37 — Worst weed in Yarra Ranges



Common Name: Bridal Creeper,
Smilax

Botanical Name: *Asparagus
asparagoides*

Origin: South Africa

Size: Climber to 4m

Flowers: August—October

Fruits: November—January

Status: Declared Noxious Weed

Best removal time: Weed—Autumn
to winter.
Spray—July to
September

How to dispose of weeds:

Recovery & Transfer centres:

- Healesville
- Wesburn
- Coldstream
- Lysterfield

*Note: For a free tip voucher to dispose weeds,
contact the Environment Dept. on 1300 368 333.
Limited availability.*

OR

Fortnightly Garden Organics Bin

Service. *Note: This service is only available to
properties within eligible service areas. For more
information, contact the Waste Management
services on 1300 368 333.*

OR

Bundled green waste service. *Note:
Check your Residential Recycling & Waste guide
for details of the next service in your area.*

What it does...

This creeper is highly invasive and aggressive. It can form large mats on the ground and large masses in the canopy of trees. It smothers trees and shrubs. It is listed as a 'Weed of National Significance' - one of the 20 worst weeds in Australia. It is a declared Noxious weed across Victoria.

What it looks like...

Bridal Creeper grows rapidly in autumn/winter and dies back to the roots over summer. The leaves are bright green to 3cm long, broad and round at the base, coming to a point at the tip (similar to Wandering Trad). Stems are thin (like a dress pin) and wiry. A round green berry develops after the white flowers, ripening to red. It grows in drier areas such as ridges or open grassy forest and paddocks.

How it spreads...

This plant spreads rapidly from its bird and animal dispersed seed or from parts of the roots. Dumped garden waste, contaminated soil and machinery also contribute to its distribution.

How to remove it...



HAND: Bridal Creeper grows from fibrous roots which have storage tubers. These must be dug out for best results. The above ground portion of the plant can be cut and left to die. This should be done before it fruits. The roots must be dug out and disposed of carefully.



SPRAY: Bridal Creeper is best sprayed when the plant is just starting to flower. Registered herbicides include Glyphosate, and Metasulfuron—Methyl (eg. Brushoff) Check the labels for details. (Ring the Department of Primary Industries on 136186 for full details).

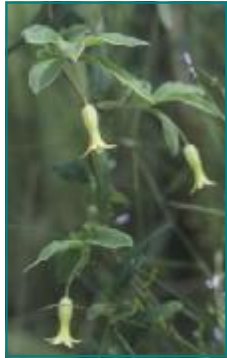
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Indigenous alternatives to plant...

Many climber and creeper alternatives exist that are indigenous to the Yarra Ranges region and would make great substitutes for the Bridal Creeper.

Some alternatives include:



Common Apple-berry, *Billardiera mutabilis*



Mountain Clematis, *Clematis aristata*



Forest Bindweed, *Calystegia marginata*



Photos: David Blair; Shire staff, Marilyn Gray, Healesville Sanctuary, Peter Kinchington, Local Plants brochure

Useful websites

The following is a list of useful information resources:

- For a list of indigenous plant nurseries, see [Indigenous Plant Nurseries list](#).
- For a list of other weeds in Yarra Ranges, see [Environmental Weeds list](#).
- For a list of chemical/herbicide contractors, see [Contractor and supplier list](#).
- For descriptions of the local plants and the weeds of the Shire of Yarra Ranges see www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants

WARNING IF USING CHEMICALS



If you are weeding, all chemical use must be done as per manufacturers' guidelines. Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eye wear at all times. Take care and protect yourself, your family, pets and the natural environment (waterways, indigenous plants, wildlife) from coming into contact with chemicals.

When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Product suppliers are required to make these sheets available at the point of sale. If a sheet is not available, notify the product manufacturer and the state authority. For further information go to www.apvma.gov.au or call the Poisons Information Service on 13 11 26.

For information on State-listed noxious weeds contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 136 186. Remember, as a landowner you are required by State law to control and remove noxious weeds on your land.