

Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*

Declared Noxious Weed

Weeds of National Significance (WONS)

Environmental Weed Factsheet

Origin: South Africa

Size: Climber to 4m

Fruit: November - January

Flowers: August - October



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...

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



Remove by 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 with herbicide: 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).

Declared Noxious Weeds...

Have the potential to spread widely and cause serious economic loss to agriculture, or have some detrimental effect upon people, animals, the environment or the local community.

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



How to dispose of weeds:

By disposing of environmental weeds correctly you can prevent re-infestation on your property and elsewhere.

- Landfill (Weed Wipeout Tip vouchers available for some species).
- Green waste bin ensures that weeds are not able to spread.
- Woody weed stems can be bundled for green collection twice per annum.
- Composting (excluding seed heads or species with vegetative reproduction, e.g. Wandering Trad).
- Burning in accordance with Council and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) prescribed burning periods and regulations.
- Recovery and transfer stations available for weed tipping are Healesville, Wesburn, Coldstream, Lysterfield and Montrose.

Bare ground attracts WEEDS!!!

For effective long term weed control we recommend:

- **Habitat Restoration**
 - Encourages indigenous and native plant to **regenerate**
 - **Revegetation** - replanting indigenous vegetation
- Productive land **use**.
- **Replace** with non invasive garden species.

Using Chemicals:

Non chemical treatments is often the most effective and safe option especially on smaller scale infestations.

Where chemical use is undertaken:

- Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines when using chemicals.
- Wear protective clothing and eyewear
- On purchasing your herbicide, always ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or refer to the manufacturer's website for specific safety guidelines and information.
- Some herbicides will kill other plants and not just the target species.
- Near waterways herbicides can be very poisonous to aquatic life.
- Use chemicals sparingly and be sure that you are using the right chemical and application technique.
- Ensure the weather conditions are suitable (e.g. minimal wind and no rain expected)
- Apply herbicides at the correct time during the plant's growth cycle so you get the best results..