

Invasive plants and animals

Corky passionflower

Passiflora suberosa



The problem

Corky passionflower is a South American vine that is an aggressive invader. It is usually most successful in the sub-canopy, where it smothers small trees, shrubs and even the ground cover species. It has been observed smothering upper canopy species in some locations. It is recorded as a weed in a number of countries throughout the Pacific region.

Description

This weed is a perennial vine with extensive, twining tendrils. Stems are commonly purplish in colour. Leaves are dark green and may be three-lobed (with the centre lobe the largest) or entire in shape. They are generally 4–8 cm long, with a leaf stalk up to 2.5 cm long. Flowers are up to 2.5 cm wide and appear in solitary arrangement in leaf axils. They are free of petals, but they possess “sepals” that are yellow-green in colour, with a purple inner fringe. Fruits are purple and are readily eaten by birds, aiding in considerable seed dispersal.

Management strategies

The most reliable method of control for this species is hand pulling when the soil is moist. Care must be taken not to break the stem above the roots, or the plant will regenerate. The above-ground vegetative parts of the weed can be removed using a brush hook or similar tool.

Corky passion flower can be treated with a herbicide.

Declaration details

Corky passionflower is not a declared plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, however, plants that are not declared under state legislation may have control requirements imposed by local governments.

Further information

Further information is available from the vegetation management/weed control/environmental staff at your local government.

TABLE 1 – HERBICIDES REGISTERED FOR THE CONTROL OF CORKY PASSIONFLOWER

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 part product to 2 parts water (e.g. 10 mL in 20 mL water)	PERMIT 7485	Apply in spring. Apply second application if necessary.

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions.

It is a requirement of a permit that all persons using the products covered by this off-label permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. The above permit can be used by pest control operations, members of environmental groups such as Bushcare, Catchment Care, Coast Care and people employed as or working under supervision of local and state government officers.