

Invasive plants and animals

Madeira vine

Anredera cordifolia



DECLARED CLASS 3



The problem

Madeira vine blankets and smothers trees and shrubs and can lead to their death. It is very heavy on the tree canopy and will collapse smaller trees. Madeira vine is a garden escapee and is native to South America.

Description

Madeira vine is also known as potato vine or lambs tail vine. It is a vigorous climber which can produce thousands of aerial tubers along its stem. It has light green, wide heart shaped, fleshy 4–5 cm leaves. It produces dense blankets of creamy flower spikes from December to April. The flower spikes are

10 cm long and each spike is made up of numerous individual small flowers and resemble a lambs tail.

At its worst, Madeira vine produces thousands of small light brown or green potato-like tubers which fall to the ground and sprout.

Management strategies

Pre-planting of desirable species to ensure that other weeds do not gain a foothold in the disturbed area, should be adopted as part of the revegetation of cleared areas. Mulching will assist in reducing the germination of weed species.

Research results have shown that the following methods can be quite effective:

The underground root system can be carefully hand pulled and hooked up where the ground tubers cannot re-root. This will cause death of the root system in the following months.

Aerial tubers have been observed to be still attached to vine stems two years after they were pulled from the ground. Some aerial tubers desiccate after exhibiting vegetative 'sprouts'. The more immature the aerial tubers, the quicker they will desiccate. Large heavy clusters seem to have the capacity to fragment freely. Vines sprouting on the ground surface from fallen aerial tubers may be either:

- placed in the freezer, which is the surest way of killing the tubers quickly;
- treated with foliar applied herbicides; or
- hand pulled, bagged and put into the sun and then disposed of to prevent regeneration.

Declaration details

Maderia vine is a declared Class 3 plant under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. The Act prohibits the supply or sale of Class 3 plants and may require their removal from environmentally significant areas.

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 MADERIA VINE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Basal bark spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	35 mL per 1 L diesel or kerosene	PERMIT 7485	
Foliar spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	500 mL per 100 L water	Registered	Apply at time of active growth.
Cut stump	glyphosate (360 g/L)	10 mL in 20 mL water	PERMIT 7485	<p>This method should be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when the untreated parts of the vine are not too close to the ground (in order to avoid the plant from re-rooting); • for young vines that have not yet begun producing aerial tubers; or • on vines with immature aerial tubers, which quickly desiccate. If using this method on vines with 'ripe', heavy clusters of aerial tubers (ready to fall), prompt follow up treatment of new growth arising from fallen tubers is essential <p>Apply in Spring before tubers proliferate. Apply second application if necessary.</p>
Foliar application	glyphosate (360 g/L)	10mL per 1L of water	PERMIT 7485	Apply to healthy actively growing vines only. Apply up to twice a year. Apply only when supporting plant and understorey is dead. Apply early autumn (March-April). Do not spray beyond the point of runoff.

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

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.

Fact sheets are available from DPI&F service centres and the DPI&F Information Centre phone (13 25 23). Check our web site <www.dpi.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the latest version of this fact sheet. The control methods referred to in this Pest Fact should be used in accordance with the restrictions (federal and state legislation and local government laws) directly or indirectly related to each control method. These restrictions may prevent the utilisation of one or more of the methods referred to, depending on individual circumstances. While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.