

Invasive plants and animals

Mile-a-minute or Coastal morning glory

Ipomoea cairica



The problem

As its name suggests, this weed is capable of very rapid growth. It is becoming quite common in coastal areas, where it smothers other vegetation, particularly along river banks. With a twining growth habit, this species will creep along the ground in the absence of supporting structure. Significant infestations of this weed may lead to a reduction in biodiversity through the destruction of native vegetation. This practice, in turn, may lead to the displacement of certain native animals due to habitat destruction.

Description

Mile-a-minute can be distinguished from similar species by the deeply divided leaves with 5–7 lobes. Its funnel-shaped flowers are lavender in colour, with a deeper coloured throat. The species displays vigorous growth and develops into a thick, covering mat of vegetation, sometimes climbing 4.5 m into the canopy.

Management strategies

Climbing growth of individual plants may be physically removed using a brush hook or similar tool. Take care to dig out and remove the crown and roots of the plant to prevent regrowth. Larger infestations may require the use of herbicides.

Declaration details

Mile-a-minute or Coastal morning glory 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 MILE-A-MINUTE OR COASTAL MORNING GLORY

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status	Comments
Spot spray	dicamba (500 g/L)	200 mL per 100 L water for mature plants. Up to 1 L per 100 L water on regrowth	PERMIT 7485	
Foliar spray	2,4-D amine (625 g/L)	0.56 – 1.7 L per ha	Registered	
Spot spray	2,4-D amine (500 g/L)	4 mL per 1 L water	PERMIT 7485	
Cut and basal paint	glyphosate (360 g/L)	1 part product to 2 parts water	PERMIT 7485	Apply in spring to summer. Apply second application if necessary.

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.