

White moth vine

Araujia hortorum



The problem

This perennial vine is quick to wrap its tendrils around any supporting structure, including other plants. It poses a smothering threat to native plants, with its thick, tangled growth. Native to Brazil, white moth vine has been recorded as a weed in several countries. In south-east Queensland, it is usually found in rainforest remnants, vine scrubs and wet sclerophyll forests. It can be problem in disturbed sites and is often seen draped over fence lines. If damaged, the leaves and stems exude a smelly, milky latex, which may cause an allergic reaction in some people.

Description

White moth vine is a vigorous, woody creeper with a shallow root system. It can climb to about 7 m tall. Leaves grow in opposite pairs on the stem and are up to 10 cm long, roughly triangular in shape with a white coloured underside. Flowers are small and may be white, pink or even violet. The fruits are quite distinctive, resembling choko fruits with their pale green skin. These fruits dry and split open when ripe, releasing a profusion of wind-borne seeds on silky hairs.

Management strategies

It is advisable to wear gloves when manually removing this plant, due to the irritating latex.

It is best to cut the roots at least 10 cm below the ground and dispose of all removed material at an appropriate Council landfill site.

Declaration details

White moth vine 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 WHITE MOTH VINE

Method	Herbicide	Rate	Registration status
Spot spray	fluroxypyr (200 g/L)	1 L per 100 L water	PERMIT 7485
Basal bark spray	fluroxypyr (200g/L)	35 mL per 1 L diesel or kerosene	PERMIT 7485

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.