

ASPARAGUS – CLIMBING / FERN

Asparagus africanus / *A. plumosus*



Asparagus plumosus



terry inkson



robert white

Asparagus africanus

Origin	South Africa
Description	Wiry perennial twining scrambler to 12m high on supporting vegetation. <i>A. africanus</i> with spikes along stems. Aggressive weed of urban bushland in tropical and subtropical areas.
Leaves	Fine, feathery, leaf-like cladodes (adapted stems) arranged in horizontal sprays. Ferny appearance.
Flowers	Small, <i>A. plumosus</i> greenish white and single or in pairs arranged at the tips of branches, in spring to autumn. <i>A. africanus</i> flowers are cream-white and occur in clusters from September to November.
Fruit	Fleshy berries, <i>A. plumosus</i> berries blue-green at first, ripening to black, 4–5 mm wide. <i>A. africanus</i> berries turn orange when mature. Single seed.
Roots	Tough, woody crown with extensive fleshy root mass radiating out.
Dispersal	Seeds spread by birds and water. Rhizomes and fruit containing seeds also spread in dumped garden waste.
Confused with	These two species are often confused with each other and with other <i>Asparagus</i> species. In this region, these two are most likely to occur, with <i>Asparagus africanus</i> more likely in the north of the region. Both can be referred to as Climbing Asparagus, Asparagus Fern or Climbing Asparagus Fern.
Control	Remove and dispose of all aerial stems from the site as they can re-establish into new plants. The crown of the plant should also be removed and all berries collected. Hand-pull emerging seedlings, dig out root systems. Foliar spray metsulfuron-methyl at 1 g/10L with surfactant.



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Origin	Tropical America, West Indies and Africa
Description	Plants spread along the ground or climb trees and shrubs. Common in moist gullies along the warm temperate to tropical coast of Qld and NSW.
Leaves	Compound 6–16 cm long, on a leaf stalk 2–10 cm long, with leaflets each further divided into 3. Margins of leaflets irregularly toothed.
Flowers	White, four petals, in clusters. The stalk of the flower head ends in a pair of tendrils. Flowers occur most of the year.
Fruit	Inflated papery membranous capsule (balloon), 6-ribbed, 4–8 cm long, covered with short stiff hairs, each containing three blackish round seeds.
Roots	Shallow and fibrous, fragments re-root readily.
Dispersal	Seeds spread by wind, water and contaminated soil.
Confused with	Native Slender Grape (<i>Cayratia clematidea</i>) which has tendrils opposite leaf axil, not in axil as balloon vine and has 5 leaflets not 3.
Control	Hand-pull/dig, scrape and paint with 100% glyphosate or foliar spray with glyphosate at 10 ml/L. Best approach is to cut vines and spray re-growth.

Cayratia clematidea



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BRAZILIAN (CLIMBING) NIGHTSHADE*Solanum seaforthianum*

Origin	Central and South America
Description	Perennial shrub or twining climber to 6m.
Leaves	Green, deeply 3–9 lobed, hairless except edges and veins on under surface.
Flowers	Mauve-blue, 2–3 cm across in groups of up to 50 in spring–autumn.
Fruit	In clusters, green berry up to 1 cm across, ripening to bright red.
Roots	Shallow and fibrous.
Dispersal	Seed is spread by water, animals, humans, contaminated soil and garden rubbish dumping.
Control	Hand dig, scrape and paint with 100% glyphosate or foliar spray with glyphosate at 10ml/L.



Origin	South Africa
Description	A climbing and trailing perennial, non-woody vine that smothers vegetation to heights of 10m. Stems break easily. Rapidly grows into blankets and smothers surrounding vegetation.
Leaves	Ivy or star-shaped with 5–7 lobes, fleshy, glossy green above and silvery below, often with a purple tinge.
Flowers	Strongly scented on warm days, yellow and daisy-like in dense clusters lacking petals. Flowers autumn to spring.
Fruit	Small, reddish-brown with a 'parachute' of fine hairs (pappus). A mature plant can produce up to 4000 seeds annually.
Roots	Shallow and fibrous, fragments re-root readily.
Dispersal	Vegetation fragments and seed are spread by wind, water, animals, humans, contaminated soil and garden rubbish dumping.
Control	Hand dig or foliar spray metsulfuron-methyl at 1 g per 10L with surfactant.



Origin	South America
Description	Vigorous, blanketing climber in excess of 30m with distinctive three-pronged claws along the growing portion of the plant. The weight of the vine's mass often collapses the supporting tree's branches and may even cause mature trees to fall. Mature stems can become very woody, growing up to 20 cm in diameter.
Leaves	Leaves compound, oppositely arranged, with two dark green leaflets and a 3-pronged climbing tendril (cats claw). New leaves and tips are a showy red/brown colour.
Flowers	Attractive bright yellow flowers forming a bell shape when fully open and only occurring on mature plants. Flowers winter to spring.
Fruit	Long, dark brown, flattened seed pods (beans), that split open when mature, exposing numerous hard brown seeds.
Roots	Deep underground tuberous roots, suckering readily.
Dispersal	Seed and tubers spread by wind, water, contaminated soil and garden rubbish dumping.
Control	Hand dig, scrape and paint or cut and paint with 100% glyphosate. Cut vines and spray regrowth with glyphosate at 10 ml/L. Consult with local weeds officer about large infestations.



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Origin	South America
Description	Sprawling or climbing vine with stems to about 2m long. Stems and seed pods densely hairy with hooked hairs. Also described as 'velcro plant'. There are other weedy and native tri-foliolate vines. Consult with weeds officer if in doubt.
Leaves	Three leaflets, green or green with a silver stripe and covered in hairs.
Flowers	Pea-type flowers are pink to blue or white, in small clusters. Flowers summer to autumn.
Fruit	The pods, constricted around the seeds, are covered in hooked hairs that adhere easily to clothing and animal fur. Seeds are hard coated and occur in autumn.
Dispersal	By seeds ingested by animals, seeds in whole pods attached to clothing or animal fur. Also by stem sections in dumped garden rubbish, or spread by machinery.
Control	<p>Seedlings/individual plants: Hand remove ensuring tuberous root is completely dug out.</p> <p>Large infestations: Foliar spray with glyphosate at 10ml/L or metsulfuron-methyl at 1.5 g/10L + surfactant. Metsulfuron-methyl has best results. Follow-up will be required to address germination from soil seed bank.</p>

GLORY LILY

Gloriosa superba



Origin	Africa / South East Asia
Description	Deciduous perennial. Glory Lily appears to 'disappear' in winter. Can form dense understorey carpets in dune systems along the coast, competing strongly with native flora. Climbing stems to 4 m. All parts of the plant are toxic.
Leaves	Glossy, green, 5–10 cm, hairless, alternate with 10–20 mm long hooked tendrils at the tips, which curl around supporting plants.
Flowers	Yellow, orange and red (7–10 cm) with 5 large, elongated petals. Single flowers on stalks arising from leaf forks. Flowers look upside-down with petals folded upwards and 4–7 mm long stamens radiating out.
Fruit	Fleshy, green, glossy capsule (4–10 cm), containing multiple red seeds when mature.
Roots	Small tubers, connected by fragile threads.
Dispersal	Spreads by movement of seed and by rhizomes.
Control	Spot spray foliage with glyphosate at 20 ml/L or use 200 ml glyphosate plus metsulfuron-methyl at 1.5 g/10 L water.



Origin	China & Japan
Description	Robust climbing or scrambling shrub to 8m high. Young stems, reddish, covered with short hairs. Older stems woody and hairless.
Leaves	Glossy, opposite with a conspicuous ridge between opposite leaf stalks, ovate to about 7 cm long.
Flowers	White, ageing cream to yellow or pale orange. Paired, long and tubular (3–4 cm), very sweetly scented. Autumn–spring.
Fruit	Round berry, 4–10 mm long, purple-black.
Roots	Fibrous initially, becoming a dense, extensive and woody crown with age.
Dispersal	Seed mostly spread by birds, contaminated soil, garden rubbish dumping.
Control	Dig out plant and all roots. Foliar spray with 1.5 g/10 L metsulfuron-methyl plus surfactant. If stems are hard to access, plants can be cut back to ground level and new growth then sprayed the following year.

KUDZU

Pueraria lobata

Contain this weed

VINES AND SCRAMBLERS



Origin	South America
Description	Kudzu is a deciduous, semi-woody, perennial vine, capable of forming dense mats. It is difficult to detect when leafless in winter. Stems can be up to 30 m long and scramble over the ground or climb over other vegetation and structures. Kudzu is capable of very rapid growth and can grow 10–30 m per growing season and up to 30 cm in a day.
Leaves	Compound leaves are arranged alternately along the stem with three leaflets per leaf. Leaflets are 8–18 cm long and 6–20 cm wide and are usually lobed/triangular, with finger-like glands on the upper surface, growing at right angles to the stalk.
Flowers	Perfumed, pea-shaped, in clusters 10–40 cm in length. Individual flowers are 15–25 mm long and can be purple, blue or pink with a central patch of yellow, occurring late spring to autumn.
Fruit	Pods are brown and are covered in fine hairs. Each pod contains 3–10 seeds and is 4–13 cm long and 0.6–1.3 cm wide. The seeds are reddish brown with black mosaic, ovoid to ellipsoid, slightly flattened and 4–5 mm long.
Roots	Expansive root system. Large (60–90 cm) underground tubers and roots can extend for 5 m into the ground.
Dispersal	Stolons root at the nodes to form new plants by rhizomes. Also dispersed by seed.
Control	Does not persist under grazing. Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl at 1 g/L with surfactant.

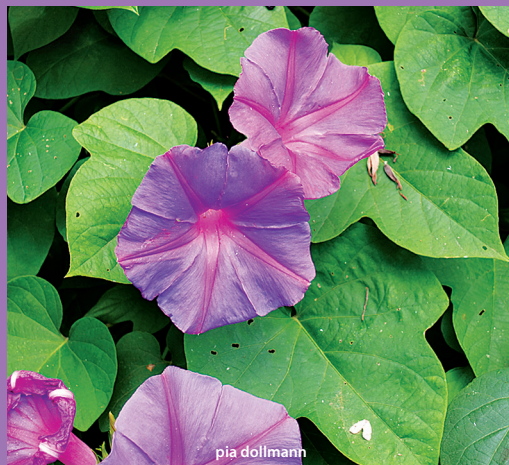
KUDZU



Origin	South America
Description	Vigorous, robust, fleshy and extensive twining, hairless, perennial climber in excess of 30m. Conspicuous aerial tubers along stem. Capable of smothering and weighing down large mature trees.
Leaves	Fleshy, glossy, heart-shaped, alternately arranged and bright green.
Flowers	Small, fragrant, creamy-white coloured and numerous, in drooping clusters to 20cm long. Spring–summer.
Fruit	Does not fruit in Australia.
Roots	Fleshy and tuberous. Aerial tubers in clusters, underground tubers can be very large (to 20cm) and deeply buried.
Dispersal	Plant material transported by water, such as along rivers in floods, contaminated soil and through garden rubbish dumping. Aerial tubers will be shed from stems after the vine is cut, and remain viable in soil for 5 to 10 years.
Control	Hand dig, stem scrape (5–10cm) in strips for as high as you can reach and paint immediately with 100% glyphosate. Avoid ringbarking. Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl at 1.5g/10L with surfactant. Collect all plant material and fallen tubers from site. Never cut and paint.

MORNING GLORY

Ipomoea indica (blue), *Ipomoea cairica* (coastal, Mile-a-minute)



Ipomoea indica



Ipomoea cairica

Origin	South America
Description	Large perennial vines. Invade rainforests, riparian zones and coastal headlands. Capable of engulfing shrubs and trees in relatively short time periods.
Leaves	Blue Morning Glory: Dark green, variably heart-shaped or 3-lobed, 20–180 mm long. Coastal Morning Glory: Light green, hairless, 5–7 lobed, star-shaped to 90 mm long.
Flowers	Blue: Trumpet/funnel shaped, 50–80 mm diameter, purplish blue. Coastal: Mauve to pale pink/red/white. Spring–autumn.
Fruit	No seed set in Blue Morning Glory. Coastal: 4-valved brown capsule containing 4–6 seeds, which have parachute-like attachments.
Roots	Fibrous initially, becoming dense, extensive and crown-like with age. Will set root from stem fragments when in contact with the soil.
Dispersal	Seed is spread by wind, water, animals, in contaminated soil and garden rubbish dumping.
Confused with	Native Beach Morning Glory (<i>Ipomoea brasiliensis</i>) which has pink-purple flowers and the oblong to rounded leaves have a long petiole (leaf stalk) and are slightly notched to shallowly bi-lobed.
Control	Manual removal easy & effective. It takes a repeated effort to remove from a site. Cut close to the ground or scrape and paint with 100% glyphosate.



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Origin	Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay
Description	Twining perennial climber reaching up to 6m on supporting vegetation. Milky, smelly latex exuded from damaged stems and leaves.
Leaves	Opposite pairs, oblong to triangular, 3–11 cm long, 1–6 cm wide, dark green above, grey-green below.
Flowers	Fragrant, tubular, 0.8–1.4 cm long, 5-lobed, 5-stamens, white to pale pink in groups of 2–5. Flowers late spring to autumn.
Fruit	Grey-green choko-shaped fruit, turning brown and woody with age. When mature fruits split open to release wind-borne seeds on silky hairs.
Roots	Shallow and fibrous.
Dispersal	Seeds spread by wind, water and contaminated soil.
Confused with	Native Silkpod (<i>Parsonsia straminea</i>) – no white latex sap.
Control	Hand-pull. Remove all root material, leaving vine to die in canopy, or scrape and paint base of stem with 100% glyphosate. Collect all fruit. Foliar spray metsulfuron-methyl at 1 g/10L with surfactant.

PASSIONFRUIT

Passiflora spp

VINES AND SCRAMBLERS



pia dollmann



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Origin	Tropical South America
Description	Vigorous climber with tendrils.
Leaves	Varying with species; from 10 mm up to 150 mm long; generally 3-lobed sometimes ovate; pale green with powdery film and blunt tips to dark green with pointed tips.
Flowers	Very distinctive shape. They range from 1–5 cm across with colours from plain white to white blotched purple, pinks and reds; 5–10 petals; numerous cream/yellow stamens and a prominent divided stigma. Flowers spring to summer.
Fruit	Globe-shaped drupe, generally pulpy 15–50 mm long, glossy, yellow, green, red or purple/black.
Roots	Lateral roots form at right angles to stem, break easily when pulled. Can re-shoot from remnant root stock.
Dispersal	Seeds spread by humans, water, animals and garden rubbish dumping.
Control	Hand-pull. Scrape and paint or cut and paint with 100% glyphosate or foliar spray with glyphosate at 10 ml/L.

PASSIONFRUIT



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Origin	North America
Description	Deciduous, perennial, woody-stemmed, fast growing vine with stem roots clinging tightly to almost any surface. Climbing up tree trunks in bushland locations. Grows in sunny and partly shaded positions.
Leaves	Bright green when young, hairless, similar on both surfaces. Opposite, compound with toothed leaflets and terminal leaflet. Veination prominent.
Flowers	Showy, orange to red trumpet-shaped in clusters. Spring–summer.
Fruit	Flat, tapered, cigar-shaped capsule fruit that contains large number of flat ‘winged’ seeds. Light green and turning brown when mature.
Dispersal	By seed and layering. The winged seed is spread by wind. Trumpet vine can grow from pieces of the root. Plants that are cut back severely respond with vigorous new growth in the following season.
Control	This is a relatively new weed, spreading fast in Coffs Harbour. Glyphosate application does not appear to control this vine as the plant regrows from the root system. At this point in time we do not have comprehensive information about the control of this vine and recommend to treat it in a way similar to other vines described in this booklet.

SIRATRO

Macroptilium atropurpureum

VINES AND SCRAMBLERS



Origin	Central and North America
Description	Creeping or climbing tropical legume, stems to 3 m long.
Leaves	Compound, bright green 2–7 cm long. Each leaf has three broad leaflets. The two lower leaflets often have an extra rounded lobe, and leaves have silky hairs on their underside.
Flowers	Sweet pea-like, dark red to purple flowers are borne on long spikes most of the year. Flowers have a velvety sheen.
Fruit	Narrow pods (beans), 5–10 cm long.
Roots	Taproot.
Dispersal	By birds and other animals, contaminated soil.
Control	Hand-pull, chip or mow. Removing the whole crown by grubbing is the most effective manual/mechanical control method. Tangled growth may need to be cleared using a brush cutter. Foliar spray metsulfuron-methyl (1 g/10L) plus surfactant. May require repeated treatments. Cannot tolerate grazing.

SIRATRO

SYNGONIUM / ARROWHEAD VINE

Syngonium podophyllum



Origin	Central and South America
Description	Rampant climbing plant that grows over other vegetation, often reaching 5–10m or more in height when climbing larger trees. Prefers moist shady conditions and fertile soils. Commonly sold as an indoor house plant.
Leaves	Generally arrowhead shaped and either entirely green or with some silvery-white markings.
Flowers	Elongated whitish spike that is surrounded by a creamy white to greenish structure.
Fruit	Red to orange fleshy fruit. Typically hidden and difficult to see.
Stems	Climbing stems develop aerial roots which adhere to the tree or structure that they are climbing on. Older stems can turn pale brown and become slightly woody.
Dispersal	Reproduces vegetatively. Spread by stem segments and cuttings commonly dispersed in dumped garden waste. Once established, it will take root wherever its stem touches the ground.
Confused with	Other introduced <i>Syngonium</i> species.
Control	Hand-pull isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are bagged and removed. Stem Scrap with 100% glyphosate or foliar spray with glyphosate at 10ml/1L.

TURKEY RHUBARB

Acetosa sagittata



Origin	South Africa
Description	Vigorous prostrate or climbing perennial herb to 5 m long. Found in damp disturbed areas.
Leaves	Bright green, arrowhead shaped, fleshy, with a sharp lemony tang.
Flowers	Green-cream, arranged in branching clusters in spring, gradually changing to red.
Fruit	Small clusters of 3-winged cream-coloured, papery fruit, turning brown with age. Each winged envelope contains one seed.
Roots	Many underground tubers form as a series of small 'potatoes' linked by thin strands.
Dispersal	Seed is spread by wind and water. The plant also spreads vegetatively from underground stems and tubers.
Confused with	The native twiner <i>Calystegia</i> spp. does not develop the papery seeds that <i>Acetosa</i> does and has white flowers, generally found in damp places.
Control	Cut off any papery clusters containing the seeds and dispose of off-site. Carefully lift the tuber at the base of the stem to locate those underground stems which run from the top of the tuber. All seeds, tubers and underground stems must be removed. Remaining seed germinate readily in disturbed soil. Missed tubers will also reshoot. Scrape and paint with 100% glyphosate. Or foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl (1 g/10L) plus surfactant.