



Invasive Creepers and Climbers

PEST PLANTS
EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



Infestation of smilax near Martinborough

An identification guide to 22 of the many invasive creepers and climbers that exist in the greater Wellington region.

Not all of these species are classified as pest plants. Those that are classified are identified **Pest plant**. Please see our brochure *Pest Plants of the Wellington Region* for details.

For further information on any of these species contact the Pest Plants Section, Greater Wellington Regional Council.

About 80% of vines introduced to New Zealand cause problems in the wild.



Bindweed (Greater) *Calystegia silvatica*

A sprawling deciduous vine with twining stems and extensive underground rhizomes. Often referred to as convolvulus. Large trumpet shaped white flowers and arrow shaped leaves. Pink bindweed has pink flowers.



Blue morning glory *Ipomoea indica*

An evergreen perennial climber. Leaves are triangular shaped and have three lobes. Flowers are trumpet shaped and brilliant blue-mauve in colour. These flowers are short-lived and fade to pink in the afternoon.



Bomarea *Bomarea caldasii*

Quick growing vine with fleshy underground rhizomes. Pale green leaves are elongated with pointed tips. The clusters of drooping bell shaped flowers are tinged red on the outside and bright yellow with red spots on the inside. Fruit are bright orange.



Banana passionfruit *Passiflora tripartita* varieties, *P. tarminiana*, *P. mixta*

A vigorous climbing vine that smothers trees and can cause canopy collapse. Leaves are three-lobed. Pink flowers are followed by hanging yellow fruit. Seed is spread by birds.



Pest plant

Cathedral bells *Cobaea scandens*

A fast growing perennial vine that can grow up to 12m in a year. Clings to host plants by corkscrew tendrils. Leaves are in opposite pairs. Large purple or white cup-and-saucer shaped flowers are followed by green seed pods.



Cape ivy *Senecio angulatus*

Scrambling evergreen perennial that forms tangled shrubs up to 3m tall. Thick fleshy leaves. Yellow daisy-like flowers. Found mainly in coastal areas.



Chilean flame creeper *Tropaeolum speciosum*

Perennial climber with slender stems and tendrils. Leaves have five or six round fingers. The small trumpet-like flowers are scarlet, and followed by blue berries.



Pest plant

Climbing asparagus (snakefeather) *Asparagus scandens*

A scrambling shade tolerant climber with tuberous roots. Feathery leaves support small orange berries in autumn. Can ring bark saplings.



Climbing dock *Rumex sagittatus*

A scrambling perennial with reddish-green ribbed stems. Large underground tubers and rhizomes. Arrow shaped leaves. Masses of small green, pink or reddish flowers.

Greater Wellington provides free plant identification and control advice.



A vine that grows readily from cuttings, roots or seeds is likely to become invasive.

German ivy
Senecio mikanioides

A scrambling perennial up to 3m tall. The thin leaves are ivy-like and up to 10cm long. Yellow flowers appear in winter.



Ivy *Hedera helix*

Evergreen shade tolerant climber with stems up to 30m long. Suckers are produced along the length of the stems. Yellowish-green flowers are followed by black berries.



Jasmine
Jasminum polyanthum

An evergreen shade tolerant climber. Leaves are frond-like and usually in groups of seven. The fragrant white flowers are pink in bud. Produces runners that root at the nodes.



Japanese honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica

An evergreen climber with woody vines that twist clockwise. Leaves are in opposite pairs. The sweet-scented white flowers mature to yellow, and are followed by black berries.



Mile-a-minute *Dipogon lignosus*

A vigorous scrambling climber with triangular leaves in groups of three. The pea-like flowers are white, pink or lavender. Pea-shaped seed pods.



Muehlenbeckia *Muehlenbeckia australis*

An untidy, smothering native vine with stems to 20m long. Stems are green at first, later becoming brown. Leaves vary in shape – new leaves are glossy green and heart-shaped. Clusters of tiny green flowers from November to April.

Don't plant exotic
climbers close to
bush margins.



Old man's beard *Clematis vitalba*

A deciduous woody vine with strongly ribbed stems. Leaves are arranged in groups of five. Small creamy flowers from December to February are followed by masses of fluffy seeds.



Potato vine *Solanum jasminoides*

Scrambling vine with stems to 15m long. Leaves are oval to lance-shaped. The star-shaped flowers are white or pale blue with yellow centres.

Eradication Vines

These plants are rare throughout the Wellington region and Greater Wellington wants to eradicate them completely. We will control them on private property for FREE.

Please report any sightings of these plants.



Blue passionflower *Passiflora caerulea*

A fast growing evergreen or semi-evergreen climber that grows to 10m tall. Produces tendrils that allow it to cling to host trees or supporting structures. Leaves are usually five-lobed. Round orange fruit are up to 5cm in diameter.



Climbing spindleberry *Celastrus orbiculatus*

A deciduous climber that grows to 12m tall. Young twigs are green and often produce 1-2mm long sharp spines. Leaves are rounded with pointed tips. Pale green flowers are followed by yellow and red berries.



Mignonette (Madeira) vine *Anredera cordifolia*

A rhizomatous perennial vine with reddish stems. Fleshy, bright green, heart-shaped leaves. Produces brown tubers on the stems as well as underground. Small tube-shaped fragrant creamy flowers hang in long tails.

Moth plant *Araujia sericifera*

A vine that grows to 6m tall. Leaves are large, arrow-shaped, and in opposite pairs. Stems produce a milky sap when broken. Clusters of creamy white or pink flowers. Large fist-sized fruit contain fluffy seeds.



Smilax *Asparagus asparagoides*

A perennial shade tolerant climber that grows to 3m tall. Leaves are small and shiny. Tiny white flowers are followed by sticky red berries. Foliage can die off over summer.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Greater Wellington
Regional Council
Masterton Office
P O Box 41
T 06 378 2484
F 06 378 7994
W www.gw.govt.nz

Greater Wellington
Regional Council
Upper Hutt Office
P O Box 40847
T 04 526 5325
F 04 526 4171
W www.gw.govt.nz

E pest.plants@gw.govt.nz

Photographs: Blue morning
glory and bindweed –
Clayson Howell, Crown
copyright: Department of
Conservation.
Climbing spindleberry –
© Copyright Salisbury
University Arboretum

Greater Wellington is the
promotional name of the
Wellington Regional Council

GW/BIO-G-03/64