

Banana passionfruit

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

PEST PLANTS
EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Why should I be worried?

Banana passionfruit is a serious invader of native bush, recreational and waste areas, riverbanks and farmland throughout the greater Wellington region. It is frost and semi-shade tolerant, a prolific seeder and a vigorous climber. A single vine can reach heights of fifteen metres and cover more than 100 square metres. It smothers trees and can cause the canopy to collapse, destroying the habitat of native fauna.

What does it look like?

Banana passionfruit is an evergreen vine with tendrils, three-fingered leaves and year-round pink flowers. Young vines are smooth, green and string-like. Older vines are woody with a greybrown bark. It produces oblong fruit 5-10cm long that turn yellow when ripe.



How do I control it?

Seedlings

Dig or pull out and dispose of at a controlled landfill.

Mature plants

- Cut the stems as close to the ground as possible. Immediately brush or spray the herbicides *Roundup*, *Grazon* or *Vigilant* on to the cut stump
- Cut the stems as close to the ground as possible, wait for sufficient regrowth and then spray with the herbicides *Roundup* or *Grazon*. Repeat applications may be necessary in some situations.

Note: Care must be taken when applying chemicals to ensure non-target plants are not damaged. Check the label for recommended mixing rates.

Fruits

Collect and dispose.

What must I do?

Banana passionfruit is classified as a Suppression Pest Plant in the Greater Wellington Regional Pest Management Strategy.

You are legally required to control banana passionfruit on your property.

It is an offence to sell, propagate, or distribute banana passionfruit.

Where is it in our region?

Banana passionfruit is present throughout the region. It grows in habitats ranging from gardens to river margins, native bush, reserves, road and rail corridors, farmland and wasteland.

Where does it come from?

Banana passionfruit originates from the mountains of the Andes, South America. It was introduced to New Zealand in the 1850s for its fruit and ornamental values and for these reasons it is still grown today. Banana passionfruit was first recorded as naturalised in New Zealand around 1955. The range of banana passionfruit is still expanding and will continue to do so through human activity, birds and rodents.



Controlled infestation of banana passionfruit at Otaki

We're here to help you

If you need advice on how to control banana passionfruit or other pest plants contact Greater Wellington Biosecurity (Plants).

