Bridal Creeper

Asparagus asparagoides

- Climbing stems that can grow up to 3m long
- Small, hard and pointy leaves that grow alternately (not opposite from each other)
- Small white flowers produced in late winter to early spring.
- Pea-sized fruits form in spring, first green then maturing to red.

leaves

climbing stems

Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019

REMOVING BRIDAL CREEPER

By hand

- Hand pulling or digging out plants can be used for small patches of bridal creeper. However, for this method to be effective, all the roots need to be dug up and it must be disposed of in a way that ensures it does not spread even further. This can be done by placing plants (including tubers and seeds) inside two sealed bags and disposing of it in general waste. **Removed plants or plant material must not be disposed of in green waste.**

Foliar spraying

- Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. If bridal creeper is climbing over desirable plants, first cut the climbing stems, then spray the regrowth. The most effective herbicide products are those containing Metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate). Herbicides can have a difficult time sticking to and penetrating the thick waxy leaves of bridal creeper, so adding a wetting agent such as Pulse Penetrant is important for the spraying to be effective at killing the plant.

IMPACTS

Bridal creeper is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. It can invade a wide range of landscapes, including undisturbed bushland, where it forms a dense canopy that blocks sunlight during the winter and spring growing season, greatly reducing native plant diversity. Its root system competes with native plants for space and nutrients which then limits the ability for native plants to grow at all.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Bridal creeper reproduces by seed, with birds and other wildlife further spreading the weed as they eat the berries. It also reproduces vegetatively and, as a result, can be spread through the dumping of garden waste, as it resprouts from any rhizomes or tubers in the waste material.