

PROBLEM CLIMBING PLANTS OF SYDNEY'S NORTHERN BEACHES



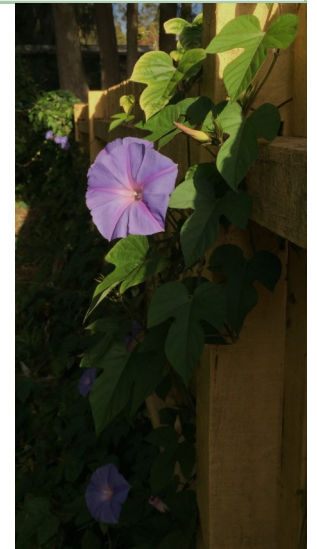
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PITTWATER NATURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION INC.

Protecting Pittwater's Environment

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CLIMBERS OR VINES NEED THE SUPPORT OF OTHER PLANTS TO REACH THE LIGHT



- ♦ Most are introduced plants gone wild, garden escapes, often from dumped garden rubbish.
- ♦ Weedy climbers can break down and smother the plants they grow on. They can spread into bushland, destroying native plants. Climbers on a tree can stop it shedding its bark normally, causing rot.
- ♦ They can grow fast and spread quickly, climbing and propagating themselves in various ways.
- ♦ Three of the climbers in this booklet are on the list of Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) because they are so damaging and difficult to control.

Do you have a problem with climbers? Help is at hand.

Useful tools: secateurs, trowel, gloves, sharp knife, bag or bin for weed propagules such as seedpods and stems that won't rot if piled on site, eg Arrowhead Vine. Glyphosate and an applicator bottle, available online.



THE CLIMBERS AND HOW TO CONTROL THEM



Arrowhead Vine/White Butterfly, *Syngonium podophyllum*. Adult foliage (left) juvenile "White Butterfly" form (right). Grows roots from stems. Cut it back to ground, cut and paint glyphosate on each cut stem. Stems left on ground will grow and possibly also in compost bin, so put in green waste bin.



Balloon Vine *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*

Usually occurs in damp places, near water. Bin the inflated seed pods. Cut back to ground, cut and paint stumps with glyphosate or cut back and dig out. Watch out for any side-stems with roots on the ground and many seedlings.



Black-eyed Susan *Thunbergia alata*

Orange flowers about 2cm across. Climbs by slender twining stems. Trace stems to central growing point and pull up. Bin all the top growth as there will probably be tiny invisible seed pods. The stems don't root when touching the ground. Watch out for many seedlings.



Blue Passionflower *Passiflora caerulea*

Used as rootstock for the edible passionfruit vine, it sprouts from below the graft and suckers vigorously, stems coming up in all directions. The edible

passionfruit vine usually doesn't live long but this survives as a terrible weed. Pull up all stems as they appear and once the top vine dies, dig out or cut and paint. Watch out for surviving suckers.



Brazilian Nightshade *Solanum seaforthianum*

Twining stems, spreads by seed from the red berries. Cut off flowers, bin berries, cut down to ground and dig out or cut and paint stems at ground level.



Cat's Claw Creeper *Dolichandra (Macfadyena) unguis-cati* *a WoNS weed*

Rampant climber, climbs by tiny claws and aerial roots on woody stems. Grows from an underground tuber, spreads by seed and tubers. Cut and paint at ground level or scrape and paint



with glyphosate. Dig out seedlings which will grow from little tubers.



Climbing Asparagus Fern *Asparagus plumosus*

a WoNS weed It grows from a central crown at ground level or below. This must be removed by digging. First check foliage for any small red or green berries and bin these, then find central crown and cut off stems before you dig it out. Any tubers on the roots are only for water storage and can be left in the ground.



Corky Passionvine *Passiflora suberosa*

Clusters of small flowers about 1 cm across, green/black fruit grape-sized, distinctive leaves with three lobes, like Ivy. Tendrils. Corky bark near base of stems. Spreads by seed and suckers. Bag berries, cut & paint or scrape all stems with glyphosate. Watch for suckers and seedlings.

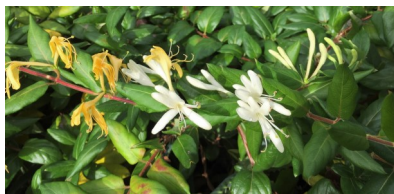


English Ivy *Hedera helix*

Spreads by seed (left above) on adult foliage, juvenile foliage (below). Climbs by aerial roots along stems. Control by keeping trimmed to prevent adult foliage and berries developing.

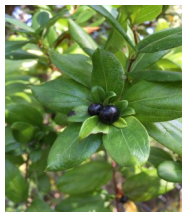
To remove from a tree or wall, cut off stems then cut and paint lower stems with glyphosate (right).





Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*

This sweet-smelling twining climber develops tough woody stems. Some run along the ground, putting down roots and new shoots, forming a thicket. It is also spread by seed



in black berries. Cut at ground level, dig out or cut and paint, bin berries. Gently lift runners, cut off any roots about 1 cm below the stem.



Madeira Vine *Anredera cordifolia*

a WoNS weed

Heavy fleshy foliage smothers every plant below it. Wherever leaves join stems, long-lived nobby tubers grow. These break off easily, growing into a new plant on the ground.



Scrape and paint each stem with glyphosate so that herbicide reaches the tubers up the stems. Luckily the cream flowers on dangling catkins don't set seed in Sydney. This is a highly invasive weed. Be ready for follow-up work.



Blue Morning Glory *Ipomoea indica*

A twining climber that doesn't set seed but spreads by stems that run along the ground, putting down roots as they go. As for Honeysuckle, trace stems towards source, cutting off roots as you go. Dig out or cut and paint main plant. Don't yank stems or bits will break off

with roots attached and produce new plants. Spraying with glyphosate works only if plant is growing actively. Repeat after three weeks.

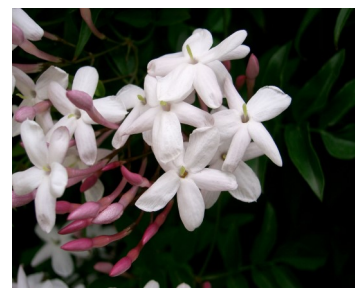
Moth Vine *Araujia sericifera*



Moth vine spreads by wind-blown and water-dispersed seed. Plants are poisonous and the white sap is a skin irritant.

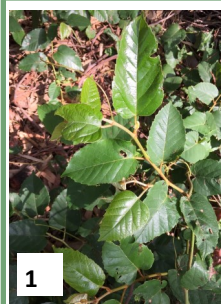
Wear gloves. White flowers produce a large choko-like seed

pod that splits to release many fly-away seeds. Dig out or cut and paint at ground level. White sap doesn't impede effectiveness of herbicide. Look above for "chokos" and bin them if possible. Check nearby for seedlings.



Pink Jasmine *Jasminum polyanthum*

This vigorous spring flowering climber spreads rapidly, sending stems as strong as wire along the ground, putting down roots. Treat as for Honeysuckle and Morning Glory. To enjoy this plant, keep its stems in sight and off the ground.



1

Native Climbers Some of these can be rampant. Control by pruning and removing from other plants.

1. Kangaroo Vine *Cissus antarctica* **2. Five-leafed Watervine** *Cissus hypoglauca* **3. Snake Vine** *Stephania japonica* **4. Native Grape** *Cayratia clematidea* which resembles Balloon Vine but is NOT hairy; foodplant for moths.



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CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Before you start, plan how to dispose of plant material. Have a bag handy for propagules such as fruit and seeds. Make a place to pile or raft other weed material up off the ground so it dries out. Don't dump anything on top of other weeds still growing. Use your green bin.

When using herbicides, always read the label. Wear gloves.

Cut & Paint with undiluted glyphosate: Use secateurs to cut horizontally near base of plant and apply herbicide within 15 seconds, enough to cover the surface but not to run off. If there are many stems, treat them all.

Scrape & Paint with undiluted glyphosate: use a knife to scrape off a 5-10cm strip of bark near base of stem so that live tissue is visible. Within 15 seconds, paint this with herbicide. A stem thicker than 1cm will need several scrapes, but don't ringbark. Leave top growth to die off. Only remove once completely dead.

Control of vine weeds may need work over several months. Be vigilant for regrowth.

More information:

The Department of Primary Industries website, NSW WeedWise, has over 300 fact sheets on many of these climbers and other weeds at:

<http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

Madeira Vine in Pittwater: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L7GBMF2NU4>



HOW CLIMBERS CLIMB

Tendrils—special curling stems: Passionfruit species, Balloon Vine. Cat's Claw Creeper has a tendril with 3 claws.

Twiners—the whole stems twists around supports: Jasmine, Honeysuckle, Black-eyed Susan, Madeira Vine, Morning Glory.

Aerial Roots grow out of the stems: English Ivy, Arrowhead Vine, Cat's Claw Creeper.

WoNS WEEDS

Thirty two Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) have been agreed on by Australian governments based on an assessment process that prioritised these weeds based on their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts. Consideration was also given to their ability to be successfully managed. Information on the selection process is available on the Weeds Australia website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/>

All WoNS are banned from sale. If you see these for sale in nurseries, please report to Northern Beaches Council.

Like this Morning Glory, many climbers can grow roots along a stem lying on the ground. If these break off with a fragment of stem attached, a new plant will grow. So pull stems gently, don't yank. Carefully cut off roots 1cm below stem.



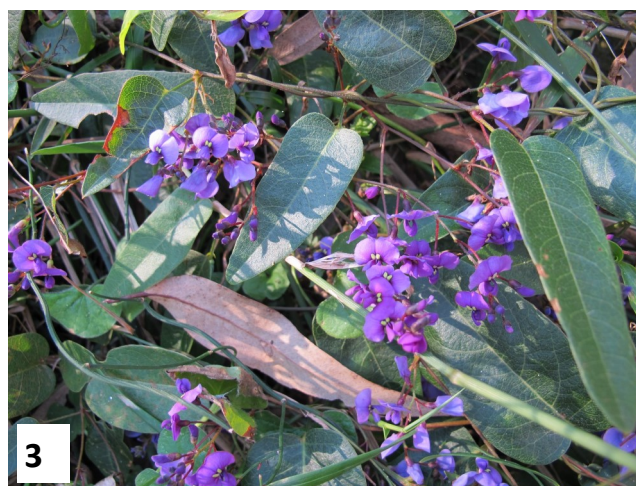


SINCE 1994 PNHA HAS BEEN THINKING LOCALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

Our Aims: To raise awareness of Pittwater's precious natural environment and act to care for it. PNHA is an incorporated Landcare Community Group. The Careel Creek Avalon Vine Weeds Project is one of many we have completed.

SOME LOCAL NATIVE CLIMBERS FOR YOUR GARDEN

1. Dusky Coral Pea *Kennedia rubicunda* 2. Old Man's Beard *Clematis* sp. 3. False Sarsparilla *Hardenbergia violacea* 4. Twining Guinea Flower *Hibbertia scandens* 5. Wonga Vine *Pandorea pandorana*



Pittwater Natural Heritage Association (PNHA) published this booklet as part of the 2017-2018 Careel Creek Avalon Vine Weeds Control Project, funded by a grant to PNHA from Greater Sydney Local Land Services, and managed in partnership with Northern Beaches Council.



Photo Credits: M. Macrae, except Cat's Claw Creeper, <https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/cats-claw-creeper/>; Pink Jasmine, Wikipedia.