

Asparagus asparagoides Bridal Creeper



Status: “Restricted Weed”.

Origin: South Africa

Description: Aggressive climbing plant forming a dense canopy of shiny, 30mm leaves, with 5-8mm 6-petalled flowers in spring. Can starve all other understorey plants of light and also produce an impenetrable mat of tubers underground.

Fruits/Seeds: Green turning to red berries containing several shiny black seeds.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by birds, animals, water, machinery, in contaminated soil and in dumped garden waste. Also reproduces from underground tubers.

Invades: Coastal areas, heathland, forest, woodland, sides of waterways; particularly shaded areas.



BULBS & CLIMBERS

Asparagus scandens

Asparagus Fern



Origin: South Africa

Description: Very invasive evergreen, spiny climbing plant that can form a thick, tangled mass smothering all other plants. Small, white or pinkish-white flowers.

Fruits/Seeds: Orange-red rounded berries, 5-7mm in spring.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by birds, animals, contaminated soil, machinery, dumped garden waste. Also grows from underground, long-lived tubers

Invades: Coastal areas, woodlands, forests and areas near waterways.



Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora Montbretia



Origin: South Africa

Description: Common garden plant, 60-100cm high, with 30-80cm pale green strap-like leaves and 3-4cm yellow to orange-red trumpet-shaped flowers on annual stems. Dies back each year to underground bulb.

Fruits/Seeds: Often produces no seeds. May produce bulbils/capsules at base of flowers.

Dispersal: Spread from underground rhizomes, bulbils dropping from plant, by water, machinery, in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste.



BULBS & CLIMBERS

Delairea odorata

Cape Ivy



Origin: South Africa

Description: Very invasive climber with ivy-like leaves and small (7mm) yellow flowers in thick clusters. Forms thick mats and curtains that smother other plants and trees.



Fruits/Seeds: Small, reddish-brown seeds (2mm) with 5-6mm white hairs attached.



Dispersal: By seed and rooting stolons (creeping ground/low level branches). Spread by wind, water, by machinery, in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste.

Invades: Coastal areas, forest, woodland, heathland, sides of waterways, roadsides.



BULBS & CLIMBERS

Dipogon lignosus

Dolichus Pea



Origin: South Africa

Description: Very invasive climbing vine to 3m with clusters (up to 25cm long) purple, pink or white pea-flowers. Forms thick curtains that smother other plants and trees.

Fruits/Seeds: 4.5mm black seeds with a white eye that are ejected explosively from pods.

Dispersal: Spread by birds, ants, water, in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste.

Invades: Coastal areas, dunes, woodland, heathland, forest, sides of waterways, roadsides.



BULBS & CLIMBERS

Hedera helix

English Ivy



Origin: Europe

Description: Very invasive climber to 30m, with typical ivy leaves and large clusters of greenish flowers. Can topple trees with its weight and smother groundcovers, understory shrubs and trees.

Fruits/Seeds: Poisonous 5-10mm dull blue to black berries usually in spring.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by birds, animals, in contaminated soil. Also grows from stem segments, including in garden waste.

Invades: Coastal areas, forest, woodland, sides of waterways, roadsides.



BULBS & CLIMBERS

Vinca major

Blue Periwinkle



Origin: Mediterranean

Description: Ornamental low creeper to 50cm high, with glossy leaves and 5-petalled blue-mauve flowers. Forms dense mats covering several square metres that can exclude all other plants.



Fruits/Seeds: Seeds contained in 2-5cm tapering follicles.

Dispersal: By seed and rooting of stem fragments. Spread by wind, contaminated soil and dumped garden waste.

Invades: Particularly shaded areas. Coastal areas, woodland, grassland, heathland, sides of waterways, forest, roadsides.



BULBS & CLIMBERS

Watsonia meriana var. *bulbillifera* Watsonia



Status: “Restricted Weed”.

Origin: South Africa

Description: Erect herb to 2m with sword-like leaves to 80cm and numerous 5-7cm usually orange to red tubular flowers. Above ground parts of plant die back annually. Forms dense and rapidly expanding colonies, dominating other plants.

Fruits/Seeds: Does not usually produce seed. Produces clusters of 6mm bulbils on flower stems.

Dispersal: Stem bulbils drop to the ground and generate new plants. Bulbils are also spread by water, in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste, by machinery (particularly graders and slashers). Also grows from underground corms.

Invades: Coastal areas, woodland, grassland, forest, heathland, sides of waterways, pastures, railway lines, roadsides.

