

Madeira Vine is native to South America. It was imported because of its attractive white flowers and strong growth. It was often planted beside outdoor latrines in Australia, as the leaves, when eaten, were believed to have a laxative effect.

Adapting to a vast range of soils and conditions, Madeira Vine has spread along waterways and through forests and is now considered to be one of the major weed threats to rainforests and waterways.

This destructive, prolific and persistent vine reduces the host trees to vine-shrouded poles. Because of its weight — thick, fleshy leaves and masses of tubers, it can smash the branches of trees by its sheer weight. The stem can grow one metre per week.

Madeira Vine has fleshy heart-shaped leaves, light green underneath and darker on top, and produces masses of perfumed creamy white flowers between March & May.

A curtain of leaves and flowers is often formed.



Growth Habit

Madeira Vine produces numerous stems, reaching from the ground up into the canopy. Mature stems are woody with wart-like growths and can reach up to 20 metres.



Numerous potato-like tubers develop on the vine stems, and underground

Reproduction

Madeira reproduces prolifically from multitudes of both underground and aerial tubers. These tubers are spread by water, the dumping of garden refuse, rodents and soil disturbance. They can remain fertile for up to five years.

Madeira also reproduces from parts of the stem or leaves of the vine. Thankfully, its flowers are not known to set seed in Australia.

Because of its capacity for rampant growth and reproduction, it is vital that any attempt to remove the plant does not actually result in proliferation of the weed.

Control Methods

Over-spraying

Over-spraying with herbicide is useful where weeds have formed an impenetrable mass with a fairly complete canopy and in a difficult to access area eg. in and over lantana. The dense weed canopy protects any submerged natives.

Over-spraying is time saving and reduces the need for manual weed removal (and therefore reduces soil disturbance).

Work from the weed edge and, in areas of extensive infestations, a very gentle breeze in the right direction helps carry the herbicide further across the weed mass.

Use a diffuse light spray over the top of weeds to avoid runoff. Use a narrow setting and higher pressure to reach further into the weed patch.

Preparation

Mix 1 part [Glyphosate](#) to 50 parts of water, plus LI 700 acidifier (as directed on label) to allow Glyphosate to penetrate the leaf surface.

The addition of Brush-off[®] ([Metasulfuron](#)) to glyphosate solutions is allowed as they are compatible, and is very effective. Brush-off[®] is used at 1.5 grams to 10 litres. Brush-off will not work properly without a surfactant.

Read the instructions on all labels before use.

Herbicides are to be used in accordance with the label or off-label permit. The permit issued to NSW DECC (Permit No. PER9907, valid until 31/03/2012), covers control of environmental and noxious weeds in native vegetation. Use of herbicides is at user's discretion.

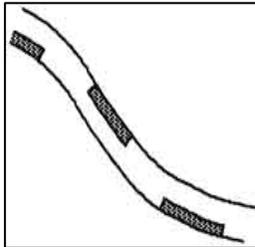
Control Methods

AVOID PULLING OR CUTTING THE VINE STEMS — *this results in a rain of fertile tubers dropping to the ground.*

Climbing vines — scrape and paint

The aim is to leave the plant alive long enough to kill both the underground and aerial tubers.

Firmly scrape sections about 30cm long along the vine, exposing the inner part of the stem. Start from ground level and work on all stems as high as can be reached.



As you scrape, immediately paint each exposed section with 100% Glyphosate.

Vines should die within 6 weeks. The vines and aerial tubers can then be left to decompose in the canopy. Most importantly, follow up this procedure for any vine stems that have been omitted.

Sprouted tubers

Sprouted tubers on the ground, can be carefully (and painstakingly) collected and bagged, ensuring the entire tuberling is collected.

For ground regrowth, spray the tuberling leaves on a regular basis — prepare Glyphosate mixture as for **Preparation**. The addition of Brush-off® ([Metasulfuron](#)) to glyphosate solutions is very effective — mix as for **Preparation**.

Large tubers can be poisoned in the ground by gouging a hole in the tuber and filling this with **100% Glyphosate**.

Disposal Methods

To reduce further spread of Madeira Vine, the following methods of disposal are recommended:

- Lay Madeira Vine tubers and pieces on a tough plastic sheet in a cleared area. Cover tightly with black plastic sheeting and check periodically. (Spraying vine pieces with Glyphosate mix as for Preparation is an option).
- Decompose in a covered drum of water.
- Burn in a hot fire (seasonal).

Avoid rubbish dumping or taking contaminated soil or material to the tip — this only spreads Madeira Vine.

Text: adapted from

Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare Group,
www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au

Photos:

John Brock

Line Drawings:

Wilson's Creek Huonbrook
Landcare Group

Other References:

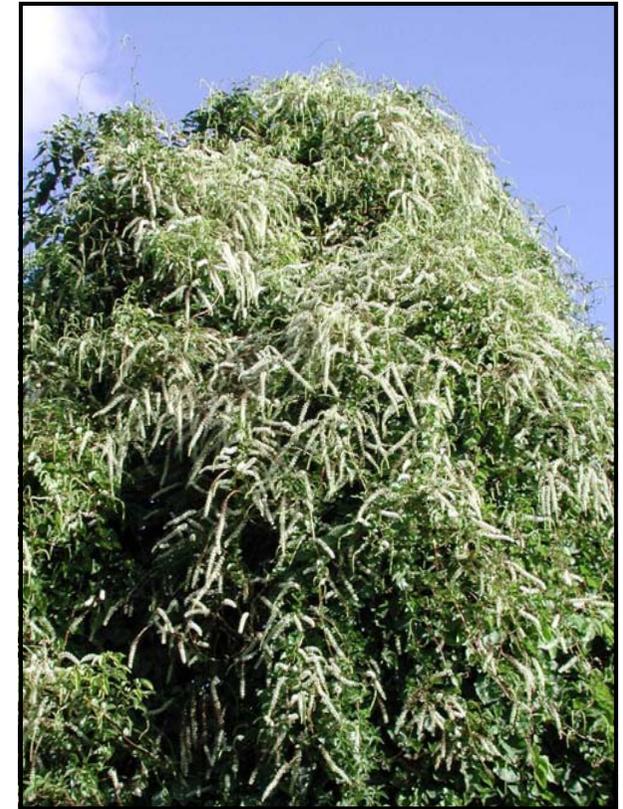
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group (1998). *Common Weeds of Northern NSW Rainforests*, Mullumbimby.

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Madeira Vine



Anredera cordifolia

A guide to identify and control one of the most destructive environmental weeds in the NSW Northern Rivers Region