

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 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.

Work from the weed edge and, in areas of extensive infestations, a 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.

Preparations 2 options

1. Mix 1 part [Glyphosate](#) to 50 parts of water plus LI700 (as directed on label) to allow herbicide to penetrate leaf surface.

or

2. Mix 1 part [Glyphosate](#) to 200 parts of water, plus [Metsulfuron Methyl \(MM\)](#) at the rate of 1.5 grams to 10 litres of mix.

Dissolve [MM](#) in water before adding to mix. The addition of [MM](#) to [Glyphosate](#) is permitted and very effective.

New Zealand research (www.nzpps.org) and local use has shown that [Metsulfuron Methyl](#) is very effective at killing Madeira vine tubers.

Always use a recommended surfactant with MM eg. LI700® or Pulse®.

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.

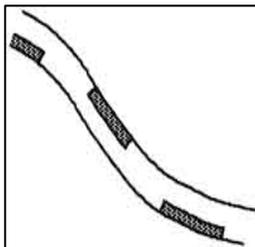
Control Methods

Climbing vines — Scrape and Paint

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

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 a 1:1 mixture of Glyphosate and water plus Metsulfuron. The Metsulfuron should be mixed with water before the addition of Glyphosate at the rate of 1 gram per 200-500mL of water. 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 collected and bagged, ensuring the entire tuberling is collected.

For ground regrowth, spray the tuberling leaves as described for overspraying— prepare Glyphosate or Glyphosate/ Metsulfuron mixture as per **Preparation**.

Large tubers can be poisoned in the ground by gouging a hole in the tuber and filling this with a mixture as per **Scrape and Paint**.

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

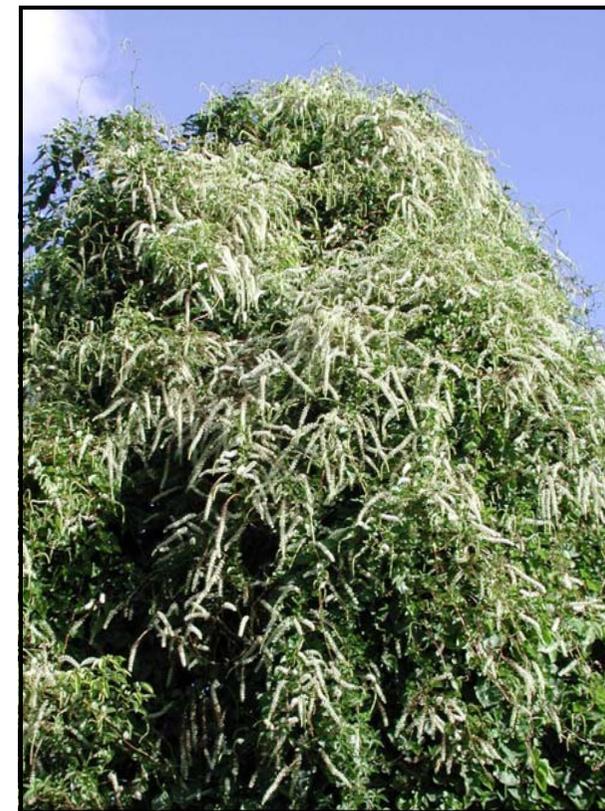
Line Drawings:
Wilson's Creek Huonbrook
Landcare Group

Other References:
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group (2008). *Common Weeds of Northern NSW Rainforests*.
www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au

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Madreia Vine



Anredera cordifolia

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