

Cathedral Bells

(*Cobaea scandens*)

Also known as cup and saucer vine, monastery bells, Mexican ivy

Is Cathedral Bells on your property?

Cathedral Bells is included in Horizons' Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Zero-Density plant. All infestations will be controlled to Zero-Density as and when they are found. Zero-Density means the control of the pest plant to the last individual. Pest plant species that are limited in distribution will fall under this objective. If you see any sites of this plant, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.



Identification

Vigorous evergreen perennial climbing vine to 6 m, growing from shallow roots. Stems are angled with hook-like branch tips. Alternate leaves usually in three pairs of oval leaflets, which are dark green above and whitish below, with branched purplish twining tendrils. Bell-shaped flowers are long, green and fragrant when young, turning to deep purple lanterns, December to May. Produces large purple seed pods in summer that release winged seeds. Native to South and Central America.

Weedy characteristics

Fast growing dense vine that scrambles over most other species to form long-lived masses. Fairly tolerant of shade, drought and damp, wind, salt, and most soil types. Produces many long-lived, well-dispersed seeds. Has the ability to cause significant change to ecosystem structures including tall and undisturbed forest, river banks and open areas.