

Chilean flame creeper

(*Tropaeolum speciosum*)

Is Chilean flame creeper on your property?

Chilean flame creeper is included in Horizon's Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Site-led plant. This means the plant is widespread throughout the region and will only be controlled in and around significant high-value natural areas or other sites that are deemed to be at risk. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.

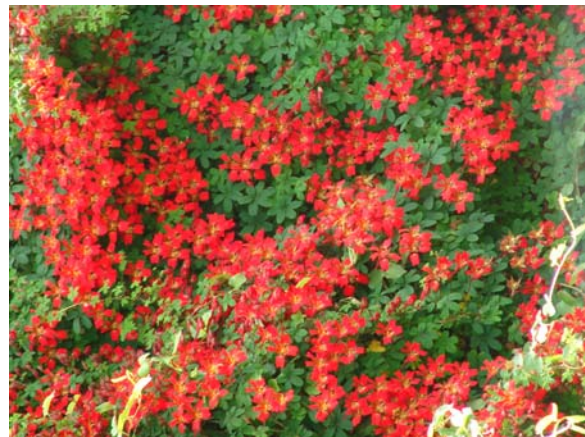


Photo courtesy of: Hilary Webb

Identification

A hairless perennial, often climbing to high canopy. Thick roots. Stems slender, usually with coiling tendrils to 7 cm long. Leaves are 5-fingered. Solitary flowers are tubular with 5 irregular petals. Bottom 3 petals very slender claw shaped and scarlet coloured (occasionally rose coloured). Flowers November-April. Deep blue seed capsule is fleshy, consisting of 3 round parts, 1 or 2 often remaining small.

Weedy characteristics

Tolerant of warm to cold, salt, wind conditions, many soil types, damp to dry. Effective dispersal. Weeds moderately long-lived with scrambling characteristics.

Methods of dispersal

Chilean flame creeper dispersed mainly by birds. Also dispersed by vegetation dumping and soil movement.

Impact on indigenous plants

Its ability to climb to canopy alters light levels and can prevent recruitment.

Typical habitats

Disturbed forest and shrubland.

Control

1. Pull up all vegetation. Dispose all year round. No herbicide treatment known, however the following could be tried:
2. Stump swab: glyphosate 50%, Escort 5 g/L, Tordon BK 35%. All year round.
3. Spray: glyphosate 2% + penetrant. Spring-summer.

Site management

Extremely hard to kill. Check for resprouting stems. Follow up 6 monthly.

Species recovery

Rootstock resprouts.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

