

Climbing spindleberry

(*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Is Climbing spindleberry on your property?

Climbing spindleberry is included in Horizon's Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy as a Regional Surveillance plant. This means that the plant could become a problem if it gets out of hand. Horizons welcomes any information about the occurrence and characteristics of this plant. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800.



Identification

A deciduous and hairless pest that climbs to 12 m high. The stems are round, woody and greyish-brown coloured with young twigs green and often with sharp 1-2 mm spines. Climbing spindle berry leaves are alternate, from round to finely serrated and change to a yellow colour before falling. The flowers are an insignificant pale green. The round seed capsule ranges from yellow to orange with exposed scarlet arils.

Weedy characteristics

Plant has a scrambling characteristic and grows rapidly. Its well-dispersed seeds are viable for 2-5 years. The weed is also possesses suckering roots and layering stems. Very tolerant of hot to very cold conditions, shade (where seeds germinate best) and high to moderate low rainfall.

Methods of dispersal

Seeds spread by birds, possibly possums and other mammals. Also by dumped vegetation and soil movement.

Impact on indigenous plants

Stems of the climbing spindle berry strangle the host and engulf most canopies to cause collapse. Down below, the layering stems become dense, forming impenetrable thickets.

Typical habitats

Disturbed and intact bush, shrubland and margins.

Control

1. Dig out and dispose as much as possible. Follow up with stump swab and/or spray.
2. Stump and stem swab: cut and dispose of most stems. Glyphosate 25%, or Tordon BK 10%. Slice and treat both ends of remaining layering stems. Spring-summer.
3. Spray: Grazon at gorse rates + penetrant, or Escort at barberry rates + penetrant, or glyphosate 1.5% + penetrant. Spring-summer only. For large stands, best to cut and dispose stems in autumn, spray regrowth in spring.

Site management

Very hard to kill, maintain at least 6-monthly follow up until eliminated.

Species recovery

Recovery likely, hard to kill. Stumps and suckers resprouts. Stems layer drops.

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

