

# Kahili ginger

(*Hedychium gardnerianum*)

Is Kahili ginger on your property?

Kahili ginger is included in Horizon's Regional Plant Pest Management Strategy as a 'containment' plant. This means that it occurs too frequently to make eradication a practical possibility. The areas where it has become a problem are recorded in the strategy and the aim is to stop them spreading further. Outside the containment areas Horizons will undertake control measures to eradicate kahili ginger wherever it appears. If you see any sites of infestation, please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800.



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## Identification

Ginger-scented, non-woody perennial to 2m tall. Massive rhizomes, close to ground surface are long, shallow rooted, branched and grow over each other, forming deep beds. Rhizome segments each produce an aerial stem usually annually. Stems are erect and soft, thickening to a short pinkish collar at the base. Leaves alternate, shiny, slightly hanging. Flowerhead, January-March has many fragrant lemon-yellow flowers with conspicuous red stamens. Fruiting spike has fleshy orange fruits containing bright scarlet seeds.

## Weedy characteristics

Extremely shade-tolerant, most soil types, good or poor drainage. Drought and frost tolerant once established. Forms long-lived deep rhizome beds, and grows rapidly. Seeds widely dispersed. Rhizomes resprout from any fragment, survive years away from soil, as well as crushing and immersion in the sea.

## Methods of dispersal

Seeds via birds and possibly possums. Rhizomes spread outwards slowly. Dumped vegetation, fill, soil movement, flooding, contaminated machinery.

## Impact on indigenous plants

Dense rhizomes replace all other species. Shallow-rooted rhizome beds become heavy with rain and slip on steep sites and streambanks, causing erosion.

## Typical habitats

Most habitats except dry rocky areas. Damp forest and margins, streamsides, river systems, and shrublands. Frost-tender but grows under canopy in cool forests.

## Control

1. Stump swab: cut above pink 'collar' at base, Escort, 1g/L. Leave stems and leaves only to mulch. All year round.
2. Dig or pull out small plants. Dispose of rhizomes. All year round.
3. Spray: Escort at label rates. Add penetrant in winter. All year round.

## Site management

Digging generally creates a disposal problem and spreads weed. Don't compost, mulch or hang rhizomes in trees, as they survive indefinitely. Soak in Escort or deep bury. Plants in deep shade produce few or no seed, therefore begin control on margins to minimise reseeding. Seed longevity 2-4 years so plant can be eliminated.

## Species recovery

Cut stumps and rhizome fragments resprout.

For more information please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800

