

Yellow ginger

(Hedychium flavescens)

Is Yellow ginger on your property?

Yellow ginger is included in Horizon's 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

Ginger-scented non-woody perennial to 2.5 m tall. Massive rhizomes, close to the ground surface, long, shallow rooted and branched, growing over each other forming deep beds. Rhizome segments each produce an aerial stem annually. Stems, erect and soft, thickening to a short pinkish collar at base. Leaves alternate with cream flowers overlapping in cone-like clusters, May-June. No fruit produced.

Weedy characteristics

Extremely shade-tolerant, most soil types, good or poor drainage, any soil fertility. Drought and frost tolerant once established. Forms deep long-lived, rhizome beds, with rapid growth. Rhizomes resprout from any fragment, survives years away from soil, crushing and immersion in the sea. No seed produced in NZ.

Methods of dispersal

Rhizomes spread outwards slowly. Spread by dumped vegetation, fill, soil movement, flooding, contaminated machinery.

Impact on indigenous plants

Dense rhizomes form massive meadows, replacing all other species. Shallow-rooted, rhizome beds become heavy with rain and slip on steep sites and stream banks, 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, 1 g/L. Leave stems and leaves to mulch. All year round.
2. Dig or pull out small plants. Burn or deep bury rhizomes. All year round.
3. Spray dense patches: Escort at label rates. Add penetrant in winter. All year round.

Site management

Digging generally not recommended, creates disposal problems and spreads the weed. Do not compost, mulch or hang rhizomes in trees, as they survive indefinitely. Soak in Escort or deep-bury. Do not replant sprayed sites for 6 months.

Species recovery

Stumps resprout immediately unless treated. Digging programmes usually leave rhizome fragments and spread infestation.

