



Invasive Creepers and Climbers



Infestation of smilax near Martinborough

An identification guide to 23 of the many invasive creepers and climbers that exist in the greater Wellington region.



About 80% of vines introduced to New Zealand cause problems in the wild.



Banana passionfruit
Passiflora tripartita, P. mixta, P. mollisima

A vigorous climbing vine that smothers trees and can cause canopy collapse. Leaves are three-lobed. Pink flowers are followed by hanging yellow fruit. Seed is spread by birds.



Blue morning glory
Ipomoea indica

An evergreen perennial climber. Leaves are triangular shaped and have three lobes. Flowers are trumpet shaped and brilliant blue-mauve in colour. These flowers are short-lived and fade to pink in the afternoon.



Blue passionflower
Passiflora caerulea

A fast growing evergreen or semi-evergreen climber that grows to 10m tall. Produces tendrils that allow it to cling to host trees or supporting structures. Leaves are usually five-lobed. Round orange fruit are up to 5cm in diameter.



Bomarea
Bomarea caldasii, B. multiflora

Quick growing vine with fleshy underground rhizomes. Pale green leaves are elongated with pointed tips. The clusters of drooping bell shaped flowers are tinged red on the outside and bright yellow with red spots on the inside. Fruit are bright orange.

**Greater Wellington
provides free plant
identification and
control advice.**



Cape ivy
Senecio angulatus

Scrambling evergreen perennial that forms tangled shrubs up to 3m tall. Thick fleshy leaves. Yellow daisy-like flowers. Found mainly in coastal areas.



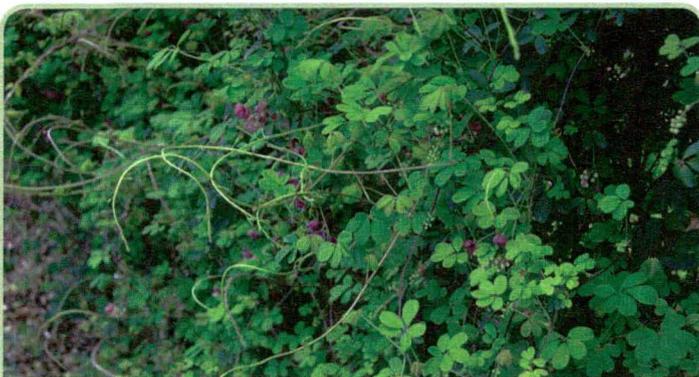
Cathedral bells
Cobaea scandens

A fast growing perennial vine that can grow up to 12m in a year. Clings to host plants by corkscrew tendrils. Leaves are in opposite pairs. Large purple or white cup-and-saucer shaped flowers are followed by green seed pods.



Chilean flame creeper
Tropaeolum speciosum

Perennial climber with slender stems and tendrils. Leaves have five or six round fingers. The small trumpet-like flowers are scarlet, and followed by blue berries.



Chocolate vine
Akebia quinata

A twining vine or ground cover with leaves of five oval shaped leaflets which meet at a central juncture. It has chocolate purple coloured flowers which have an odour that is similar to chocolate or vanilla. Flowers appear from August to October.



Climbing asparagus
Asparagus scandens

A scrambling shade tolerant climber with tuberous roots. Feathery leaves support small orange berries in autumn. Can ring bark saplings.

A vine that grows readily from cuttings, roots or seeds is likely to become invasive.



Climbing dock
Rumex sagittatus

A scrambling perennial with reddish-green ribbed stems. Large underground tubers and rhizomes. Arrow shaped leaves. Masses of small green, pink or reddish flowers.



Climbing spindleberry
Celastrus orbiculatus

A deciduous climber that grows to 12m tall. Young twigs are green and often produce 1-2mm long sharp spines. Leaves are rounded with pointed tips. Pale green flowers are followed by yellow and red berries.



German ivy
Senecio mikanioides

A scrambling perennial up to 3m tall. The thin leaves are ivy-like and up to 10cm long. Yellow flowers appear in winter.



Great bindweed
Calystegia silvatica

A sprawling deciduous vine with twining stems and extensive underground rhizomes. Often referred to as convolvulus. Large trumpet shaped white flowers and arrow shaped leaves. Pink bindweed has pink flowers.

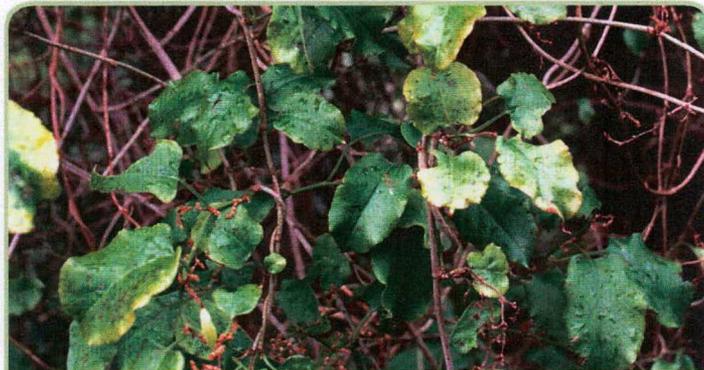


Ivy
Hedera helix

Evergreen shade tolerant climber with stems up to 30m long. Suckers are produced along the length of the stems. Yellowish-green flowers are followed by black berries.

For more information
Contact us at
Greater Wellington
Regional Council
0800 496 734
pest.plants@gw.govt.nz
www.gw.govt.nz

These vines smother trees
and low growing species



Muehlenbeckia
Muehlenbeckia australis

An untidy, smothering native vine with stems to 20m long. Stems are green at first, later becoming brown. Leaves vary in shape – new leaves are glossy green and heartshaped. Clusters of tiny green flowers from November to April.



Old man's beard
Clematis vitalba

A deciduous woody vine with strongly ribbed stems. Leaves are arranged in groups of five. Small creamy flowers from December to February are followed by masses of fluffy seeds.



Potato vine
Solanum jasminoides

Scrambling vine with stems to 15m long. Leaves are oval to lanceshaped. The star-shaped flowers are white or pale blue with yellow centres.



Smilax
Asparagus asparagoides

A perennial shade tolerant climber that grows to 3m tall. Leaves are small and shiny. Tiny white flowers are followed by sticky red berries. Foliage can die off over summer.

Photographs:
Blue morning glory and Great bindweed – Clayton Howell, Crown copyright: Department of Conservation.

Chocolate vine – Chilean flame creeper – Trevor James

Climbing spindleberry – © Copyright Salisbury University Arboretum

Be careful not to plant exotic climbers close to bush margins as these may spread into them



Japanese honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica

An evergreen climber with woody vines that twist clockwise. Leaves are in opposite pairs. The sweet-scented white flowers mature to yellow, and are followed by black berries.



Jasmine
Jasminum polyanthum

An evergreen shade tolerant climber. Leaves are frond-like and usually in groups of seven. The fragrant white flowers are pink in bud. Produces runners that root at the nodes.



Madeira vine
Anredera cordifolia

A rhizomatous perennial vine with reddish stems. Fleshy, bright green, heart-shaped leaves. Produces brown tubers on the stems as well as underground. Small tube-shaped fragrant creamy flowers hang in long tails.



Mile-a-minute
Dipogon lignosus

A vigorous scrambling climber with triangular leaves in groups of three. The pea-like flowers are white, pink or lavender. Pea-shaped seed pods.



Moth plant
Araujia sericifera

A vine that grows to 6m tall. Leaves are large, arrow-shaped, and in opposite pairs. Stems produce a milky sap when broken. Clusters of creamy white or pink flowers. Large fist-sized fruit contain fluffy seeds.