

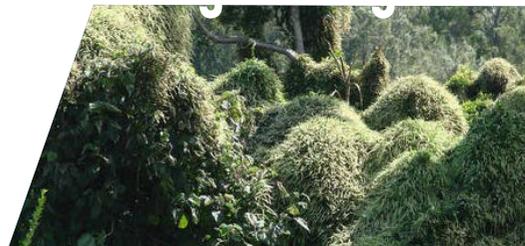
Hunter Region Priority Weed

# Madeira vine

Rampant growth smothers whole trees



Management guide



In NSW, weeds are regulated by the *NSW Biosecurity Act, 2015*. All land managers have a **General Biosecurity Duty** to contain the spread of weeds.

**“General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).”**

**The Regional priority for Madeira vine is to protect assets from the weed’s impacts. In order to achieve this**

**Land Managers are asked to:**

Maintain the State-wide Prohibition on dealings, where the plant must not be imported into the State or sold.

For further information contact your local Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer via [Hunter Regional Weeds](#) or visit [NSW WeedWise](#).

## Impacts

Madeira vine has become an invasive environmental weed from its initial use as an ornamental plant in gardens.

- Blankets and smothers both shrubs and trees. Can climb to 30m.
- The weight of the vine can cause smaller trees to collapse and die.
- It is partly salt tolerant and has been observed growing over mangroves.
- Madeira vine is now widespread and common in coastal, summer-rainfall-dominant areas of NSW, including margins of rainforests.
- It has also spread to dryer inland areas, and its distribution is increasing.
- Madeira vine flowers in summer but rarely sets seed in Australia.

- It reproduces through the production of thousands of tubers (underground) and bulbils (aerially along the stems).
- The tubers and the bulbils can remain viable for many years.
- Tubers can be up to 300mm diameter and to a depth of 1m.
- The small light-brown or green potato-like bulbils fall to the ground as vines age or during control attempts.
- Bulbils are spread by waterways and flood events.
- Bulbils are often spread by human activity.
- New stems can grow up to 1m per week in warm humid conditions.

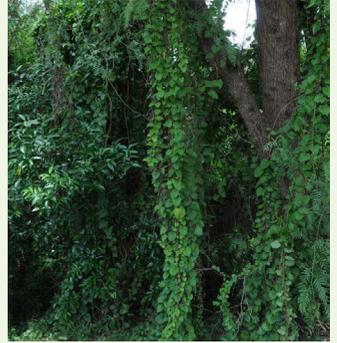
## Management

- Successful control of Madeira vine requires all the tubers and bulbils to be removed or destroyed.
- Requires regular follow-up for many years.
- Single control activities can lead to worse infestation levels unless dedicated follow-up occurs.
- Herbicide control can be effective.
- Scrape and paint method is suitable for all plant sizes and provides the safest management option in sensitive environments.
- Foliar spraying has been used to manage prostrate growth (growing along the ground) and seedlings.
- Physical removal of Madeira vine is difficult because of the extent of underground tubers and aerial bulbils, but may be practical at smaller or immature infestation sites or as a follow-up measure to remove persistent tubers.
- Cut vines can remain ‘alive’ in the tree canopy for up to two years (surviving on energy from the aerial bulbils).
- Cutting and pulling the vines from the canopy should be avoided as it results in a shower of viable bulbils.
- A biocontrol agent, a leaf feeding beetle, has been released in NSW. See your local Weeds Officer for information.

# Identification



Aerial tubers have a warty appearance.  
*Photo: T Inkson*



Above: Madeira vine infestation. *Photo: J Hosking*



Madiera vine sprouting from aerial tubers. *Photo: T Cook*



Below: The leaf-eating beetle is a biological control agent in Australia.  
*Photo: Courtesy Biodiversity Australia*



Flowering Madeira vine. Flowers are held on tassels up to 30cm long.  
*Photo: T Cook*



Heart shape leaves of Madeira vine.  
*Photo: M Edmonds*

# Management Calendar

The calendar below outlines the management approach for a typical year.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Growth stage	Aerial bulbils can fall at any time											
	Growth stage								Growth stage			
	Flowering usually summer and autumn										Flowering	
Action	Best time for spraying, during active growth								Best time for spraying, during active growth			
Scrape and paint technique may be used at any time.												

Recommended control options may vary according to your area. There are experienced professional Biosecurity (Weeds) Officers based in each Local Government Area who have local knowledge and can provide expert advice for your weed management situation. Contact your expert Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer at your local Council or at **Hunter Regional Weeds**.

Herbicide control options for all areas in NSW, including current herbicide registrations, are available for Madeira vine at **NSW WeedWise**.

*Remember that all herbicide must be used and handled in accordance with the label or permit.*

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MadeiraVine>



Get the WeedWise app

## Further information

For further information on how to meet your General Biosecurity Duty on your property, your best source is the expert Weeds Officer at your local Council or via Hunter Regional Weeds.

**Contact Hunter Regional Weeds**

[www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au](http://www.hunterregionalweeds.net.au)

**Hunter Local Land Services**

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter)

**NSW Weed Wise**

[www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

