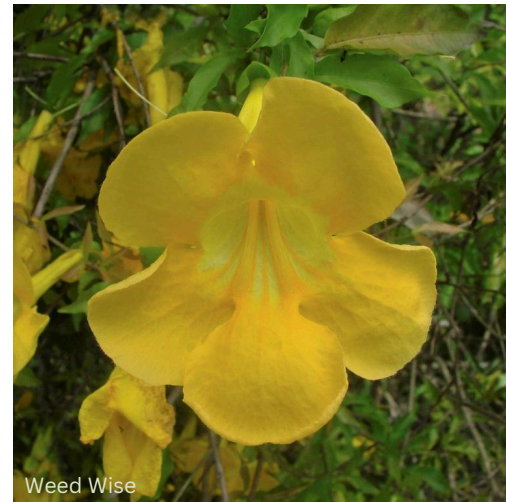


CATS CLAW

Dolichandra unguiscati



Description

Hairless woody vine with many stems. Climbing by recurved tendrils (claws) and adventitious roots to 30m high. Yellow, trumpet-like flower. Leaves usually comprise 2 leaflets with the terminal leaflet modified into a 3-clawed tendril. Leaflets ovate to oblong-elliptic, leaflet margins not toothed to slightly toothed, hairless. There are two forms of cat's claw creeper, the short pod and long pod. The long pod variety only occurs in Queensland.

Flowering time

Spring - Summer

Impacts

Forms dense matts that smothers and displaces native vegetation. Has the ability to change forest structure as it can crush the canopy of tall trees and cover saplings and seedlings too.

Habitat

Prefers moist areas, rainforest edges, disturbed areas, road sides.

How is it spread

Seed pods mature in late summer to autumn and seeds start dropping from the vines in late May. Most seeds fall in July and August. Seed viability is low but seed production is high and some seeds produce multiple seedlings. The seeds germinate best when covered by moist leaf litter rather than buried in soil. The winged seeds can be blown in the wind and spread by water along streams and rivers.

By plant parts

Established plants can reproduce from tubers and stems. Roots develop tubers in their second year. Detached tubers and stems sprout in moist conditions. The tubers can be spread in flood waters or by machinery if the soil is disturbed.

Origin

Central and South America and the West Indies.

More information

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

CATS CLAW

Control Methods

Successful control relies on follow up. Using a combination of control methods is most successful. Freeing mature native trees from the vine is a key first step.

PHYSICAL REMOVAL WHEN: YEAR-ROUND.

Pull stems away from any trees or buildings. Cut the stems so there is a gap between the ground stems and the upper part of the vine. It is not recommended to pull the climbing stems out of tree canopy. Upper parts of the vine that have been cut, will eventually die. If some of the upper parts of the vine continue to grow, check to make sure all of the stems have been cut. Seedlings and small plants have tubers that can be dug out. Removing the larger, tuberous root mass of older plants can cause excessive soil disturbance and may not be suitable in all conditions.

Disposal Tubers should be bagged and removed from the site as they can resprout.

Biological control There are two biological control agents for cat's claw creeper in NSW:

- *Carvalhotingis visenda*, a leaf sucking tingid
- *Hedwigiella jureceki*, a jewel beetle.

Both of these species feed on the leaves.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Spraying When: Whenever there is new growth. Where possible pull cat's claw creeper down from desirable plants as it may be difficult to spray the leaves of the vine without also spraying the host. Spray regrowth, seedlings and stems with foliage that is less than 2 m tall. Stems of the plant without leaves will not absorb herbicide. Spot spraying is often used as a follow-up control.

Cut stump method When: Anytime, but best when there is new growth. Best for large plants. Cut the climbing stems first, at about 1–2 m above the ground to clear a work area.

Leave the aerial parts to die. Re-cut all stems close to ground. Cut and scrape stumps of thicker stems. Apply each cut or scraped surface with herbicide within 15 seconds.

Stem inject When: Anytime, but best in spring to autumn when new growth is present.

Treat thick vines by drilling holes approx 10 cm apart using a 10 cm drill bit. Fill holes with herbicide within 15 seconds. If large tubers can be found underground, these can also be drilled and injected with herbicide.

Scrape and paint method Cut stems about 50 cm from where they emerge from the ground. Leave upper stems to die in place. Scrape a strip on one side of the lower stems and apply herbicide within 15 seconds. Use dye in the mixture so you can see treated stems.

Herbicide

To view permits or product labels go to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website www.apvma.gov.au. PERMIT [9907](#) Expires 31/03/2025.

Biosecurity Duty

All pest plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose.

Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Prohibition on certain dealings

Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.

The content provided here is for information purposes only and is taken from the Biosecurity Act 2015 and its subordinate legislation, and the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans