# MADEIRA VINE

## *Anredera cordifolia*

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL




## Description

Twining invasive climbing vine with stems to about 20 m long, producing tubers on roots and aerial tubers on stems. Leaves are fleshy, bright green and heart-shaped. Small fragrant white flowers are arranged in drooping “lamb’s tails”.

Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers has been identified as a key threatening process for many vulnerable and endangered species in NSW. Madeira vine is one of the main species listed as a threat.

## Flowering time

Late summer to early autumn

## How is it spread

Sprouting of aerial tubers, tubers produced on roots and from stem sections in contact with moist ground. Spread by water, soil movement, birds, rats, dumped garden refuse. In Australia it rarely produces seeds.

## Impacts

Smothers and weighs down trees including the canopy of tall trees.

## Habitat

Creek banks and disturbed sites. Tolerant of dense shade.

## Origin

South America.

## Control Methods

Established infestations of Madeira Vine require a long term integrated approach involving hand based control methods, spraying and regular follow-up.

**PHYSICAL REMOVAL**

Tuberlings and tubers can be carefully dug up and bagged to dispose of all parts of the plant as they will regrow if in contact with the soil or they are exposed to sunlight.

If there is stress on the host plants, cut and pull the madeira vines from the canopy. When pulling the vines aerial tubers easily fall off the stems. Lay tarps or cloths on the ground to collect the aerial tubers to prevent the infestation from spreading. Cut vines can survive in the tree canopy and continue to drop tubers for up to two years. It is important to remove as much plant material as possible.

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## Control Methods cont...

**CHEMICAL CONTROL**

**Spot spraying** is suitable for seedlings and for stems along the ground or over structures. Apply herbicide to all foliage to the point of visible wetness. If plants do not have tubers and are climbing on desirable plants, pull them off gently and spray them on the ground. Foliar spraying may be used after the stems have been treated using scrape and paint techniques. It can also be used as an initial treatment, followed by scrape and paint of remaining living stems. Follow up by spraying sprouting tubers when 2 to 8 leaves.

**Splatter gun** can be used for dense infestations of madeira vine that are difficult to reach. The specialised nozzle produces large droplets. This allows plants up to 10 m away to be sprayed with limited chance of spray drift. Spray small amounts of concentrated herbicide on the weed, taking care not to spray the leaves of native plants. Not necessary to cover all of the foliage.

**Stem scraping** is suitable for vines of any size and for those with aerial tubers. It is the safest management option in sensitive environments. It is labour intensive, as every vine stem has to be treated individually. Scrape sections of the vine down to the white fibrous layer and paint the exposed area with concentrated herbicide within 15 seconds. Repeat the process as high up the stem as possible. If possible, scrape both sides of the stem. Do not ringbark the stem as this will prevent the herbicide spreading through the plant. Remove and collect tubers along the stem near where they are to be scraped as they can easily fall off when the vines are being treated.

## Best Season

Best results for spraying in warmer time of year.

**Cut stump method** for young vines without aerial tubers. Tubers may continue to sprout for several years. Cut stems and apply herbicide to both sides within 15 seconds.

**Biological control**

The leaf-feeding beetle *Plectonycha correntina* has been released in NSW and Queensland. The beetle has established and caused significant damage to madeira vine at many of the release sites. Both the adult beetles and the larvae feed on the leaves. Leaf-feeding reduces the plant's ability to photosynthesise and depletes the energy stores in the tubers. Only use the beetles in flood-free and frost-free areas.

## 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

## More information

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

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NSW GOVERNMENT

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