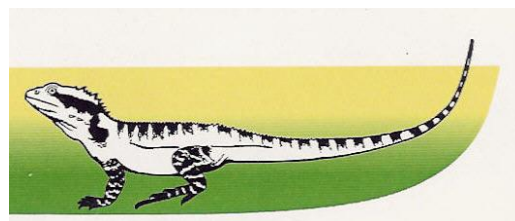


Moggill Creek Catchment Group
Six of the **Worst** Environmental Weeds
of our Catchment

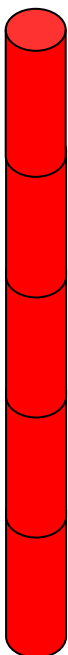


No 3: **Cat's claw**

(*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

Why is this plant considered to be an Environmental Weed?

Weed severity score Moggill Creek Catchment



Cat's claw is a robust vine which is capable of smothering and killing large trees. In parts of Brookfield and Upper Brookfield it covers areas as large as an acre, smothering and killing all native plants. Stems rapidly climb any vertical surface and after flowering, seeds are wind-borne and capable of travelling large distances. It is best adapted to more fertile situations, but may also be found on poorer soils and on hillsides.



Cat's claw smothering a tree in Upper Brookfield

What does cat's claw look like?

Cat's claw has opposite leaves with two leaflets and 3-clawed tendrils between the leaflet pairs. The tendrils are responsible for the plant's common name. The plant produces a spherical underground tuber. Flowers are large and golden-yellow, and are produced in spring; they are similar in shape to those of the jacaranda. These are followed by narrow, hanging seed pods, up to 40 cm long.

Cat's claw can not readily be confused with any native plant; young plants of monkey rope (*Parsonsia straminea*) are somewhat similar to those of cat's claw, but have simple leaves and lack the 'cat's claw' tendrils.



Tuber



Leaves



Flowers

How do I control cat's claw?

We have found that cutting stems close to the ground and spraying immediately with 50% glyphosate (360 g/L) is effective. Large stems may need to be sawn through, in which case care is necessary not to spray glyphosate into

incisions in the 'host'. We have found that, where practical, pulling smaller stems down to the ground and blanket spraying with glyphosate is also effective. An alternative treatment is to cut stems and paint or spray with 50 mL Tordon in 1 L of water*. In general, treating plants while they are growing actively is most effective.

* Be sure to read manufacturer's instructions before using herbicides

For further information and advice, contact MCCG, PO Box 657, Kenmore

or visit us at www.moggillcreek.org

For more information, visit <https://www.daff.qld.gov.au/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/weeds>