Why is this plant considered to be an Environmental Weed?

Madeira vine is a twining vine that can cover and kill quite large trees. Although it produces little, if any, seed in Queensland, the tubers which form in leaf axils fall to the ground and soon develop into new plants. Tubers are spread by flood waters as well as by careless disposal of garden rubbish, and are said to be capable of persisting in the soil for several years. Madeira vine is abundant along the Brookfield valley and parts of McKay Brook, and is becoming increasingly common elsewhere in our area. It is a drought tolerant species and persists on hillsides if given a chance to establish there.

What does Madeira vine look like?

Madeira vine is readily recognized by its fleshy, heart-shaped leaves and twining habit. Flowers are produced in narrow hanging bunches in summer. Knobbly tubers form in leaf axils and eventually fall to the ground. Tubers at the base of older plants can be quite large. The native tape vine (*Stefania japonica*) is superficially similar to Madeira vine when not in flower, but never produces axillary tubers, the leaves are not fleshy, and the leaf stalk is attached to the leaf some distance from the edge, rather than on the leaf margin.

How do I control Madeira vine?

When hand-weeding Madeira vine, care should be taken to dig up underground tubers without leaving bits behind. For chemical control, glyphosate and Starane 200®* have been recommended. We have found that 1:1 glyphosate:water is effective on lightly scraped stems of larger plants and also kills smaller plants when applied as a foliar spray. Starane 200® at a rate of 35ml to 1 L of diesel applied as a basal bark treatment is also recommended. 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
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