

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



BRIDAL CREEPER

(*Asparagus asparagoides*)

AND RUST FUNGUS

CONTROL

Physical removal

Only effective when all the rhizomes are dug up and destroyed. Slashing the stems and leaves may prevent fruit production and slowly deplete root reserves but it will not eradicate an infestation.

Chemical Treatment

Herbicides have been the most effective method of control. Treat with a recommended herbicide applied by spot spraying. The best way to apply it is with a hand sprayer, but it can also be wiped directly on the leaves.

Biological control

Leafhopper

The leafhopper is a small white insect about 2mm long and damages bridal creeper by sucking the photosynthetic cells of the leaf. Feeding damage appears as white spots, often in a zig-zag pattern of the leaf. Available at rust fungus nursery. See box.

Rust fungus

Bright yellow spots on the surface of the leaves. The fungus destroys leaf tissue by producing spots and fruiting bodies that reduce the photosynthesis surface of the plant. See box on right for more details.

For More Information

Contact Bushcare Coordinator

Phone: (08) 9290 6666

Email: shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au

au

Origin:

Southern Africa

Description:

Bridal creeper has an annual, climbing shoot growth from a perennial root system consisting of many tubers (food storage organs) grouped along a central rhizome (an underground stem with shoot buds).

Leaves: shiny green heart-shaped.

Seedhead: Green berries are formed, 5-10mm in diameter. These contain an

average

of 2-3 black seeds, and turn red in late spring-early summer.

Flowers are white, fragrant, 6-petalled and 5-8 mm in diameter.

Growing Habit: Climber

Distribution:

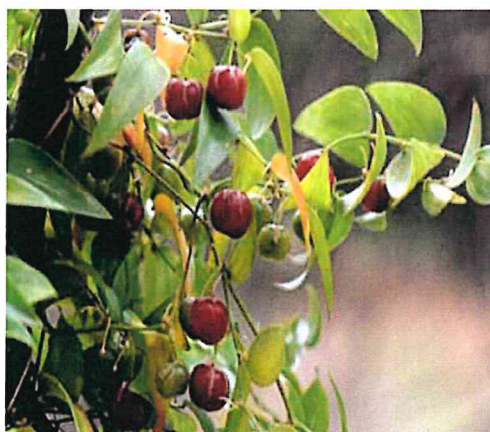
Roadsides and gardens across the Perth Hills. Scrambles across the ground and climbs trees and fences. Spread by birds which eat the berries.

Flowering Season:

August and September

Effect and problem:

It is capable of smothering native vegetation. Invasions often commence in disturbed bush land margins and openings, then expand as the canopy dies and light levels increase. They are common along rivers and creeks of the Perth area, where they smother fringing trees and shrubs.



Rust Fungus in Mundaring

Where:

You can collect some rust affected bridal creeper from the reserve at the end of Craigie Place, Mundaring, opposite Mundaring Sharing

When:

The fungus sheds yellow spores from the back of the leaves when it is ready to spread. Check it with your finger before collecting. It is usually July-August-September depending on the weather.

How:

Rub a handful of infected material on the underside of the leaves in your infestation to transfer the fungus. Use every 5 metres if you have lots of bridal creeper. Wrap a plastic bag around the infected area for 24 hours to create a mini-greenhouse. Then remove and watch for spots! Not harmful to other plants or animals!

Why:

This is a very safe, if a little slow, method of control. Herbicide requires annual treatment, but rust only requires one application.

In partnership with

