

Brazilian nightshade

Solanum seaforthianum

The problem

Also known as climbing nightshade, this South American vine was introduced into Australia as an ornamental climber. It is a fast growing plant that can smother native plants. The fruits are poisonous if eaten.



Brazilian nightshade (Solanum seaforthianum)

Description

This slender vine has deeply lobed dark green leaves. The plant has distinctive mauve-blue flowers with the 5 petals arranged in a star shape. The centre of the flower has a cluster of yellow stamens. Flowers grow in a cluster and develop into a green berry which turns red as it ripens. The vine lacks any spines, thorns or tendrils.

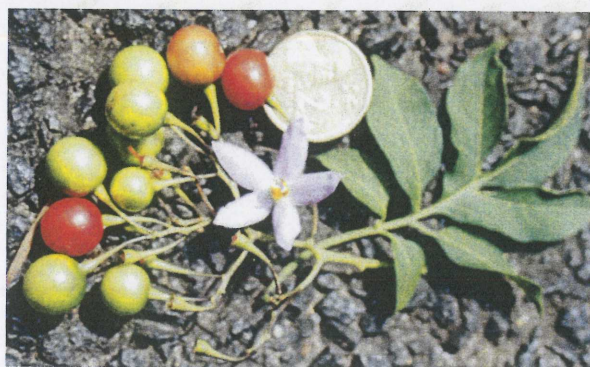
Management

As the seed is bird dispersed, it is likely that the weed will be encountered growing under roosting trees or other vegetation. Smaller vines are very easy to hand pull, especially when the soil is moist. Larger vines can be hand removed, however care must be taken to remove all the major root sections.

Any large roots remaining may resprout. It is important to remove the main root to at least 10cm under ground level.

Larger plants will require chemical control. An off-label permit allows pest control operators, members of environmental groups, and people employed as or working under the supervision of Local and State government officers to:

- cut and paint the vine with a glyphosate (360g/L) herbicide (eg Weedmaster Duo®) at a rate of 1 part herbicide to 2 parts water, applied to the freshly cut stump. The herbicide mixture must be applied within 15 seconds of making the cut;
- foliar spray the leaves with a dicamba (500g/L) herbicide (eg Kamba 500®) at a rate of 20ml per 10L of water; or
- foliar spray the leaves with a 2,4-D amine (625g/L) herbicide (eg Amicide 625®) at a rate of 30ml per 10L of water.



Brazilian nightshade fruits, flower and foliage

Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label direction

Sunshine Coast Council
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
T 07 5475 7272 F 07 5475 7277
Locked Bag 72 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Qld 4560

For additional information on weed species please contact council.