

Wild ginger

Hedychium gardnerianum and
Hedychium flavescens

Description

Two species: Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*) and yellow ginger (*Hedychium flavescens*).

Roots: Both species have large bulbous roots that can form a dense layer or mound.

Stems and leaves: Both have stems up to 2 m with large shiny leaves.

Flowers: Kahili ginger flower clusters are yellow with red stamens and flower in summer. Yellow ginger flower clusters are creamy yellow and flower in late autumn.

Fruit: Kahili ginger – a capsule opens to reveal an orange inside with bright berries. Yellow ginger does not produce seed.

Origin

Kahili ginger is a native of north India. Yellow ginger is a native of eastern India.

Both were introduced to New Zealand as garden plants.

Where is it found?

Wild ginger is found in coastal areas of the Bay of Plenty and around some of the Rotorua Lakes.

How does it spread?

Seeds are spread by birds.

Pieces of wild ginger roots can spread in illegally dumped garden rubbish.

Why is it a problem?

Wild ginger grows to form extensive dense stands which exclude other vegetation.

It grows in the shade in native forest and prevents new seedlings growing.



Kahili ginger



Yellow ginger



Kahili ginger and seed heads

Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Wild ginger is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any wild ginger on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread wild ginger in the Bay of Plenty.

Assistance may be available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council by way of approved programmes.

CAUTION: When using herbicide please **READ THE LABEL** thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

How do I get rid of it?

Spraying

Spraying is best done when growth is vigorous in late spring, summer and autumn.

Thorough spray coverage is important and repeat applications may be necessary. Tubers can sometimes re-sprout after spraying up to three years later.

Spray with Metsulfuron-methyl (e.g. Escort, Meturon, Matrix).

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 5 g per 10 L of water.

With handgun use 25 g per 100 L of water.

Always add penetrant (e.g. Organosilicone or Pulse) to the spray mix. Use 10 ml for every 10 L water.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer

