

# Climbing spindleberry

*Celastrus orbiculatus*

## Description

Woody stemmed climber which grows up to 15 m into trees.

Deciduous (loses its leaves in winter).

**Stems:** Usually grows large numbers of stems along the ground and twining into trees.

**Leaves:** Soft, oval with serrated edges and long pointed tip. Turn bright yellow in autumn which is the best time to spot it.

**Flowers:** Small, greenish and not easy to see.

**Fruit:** Bright yellow or orange when mature in autumn.

## Origin

Native of Japan and northern China.

## Where is it found?

Climbing spindleberry may be found in roadside vegetation, forestry and native bush.

## How does it spread?

Seeds are spread by birds.

The plant can also extend large distances by runners growing underground or on the surface and producing suckers.

## Why is it a problem?

Climbing spindleberry eventually forms a dense blanket of growth which smothers and eventually kills trees and shrubs beneath. It is shade tolerant and is a significant threat to native bush.



## Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Climbing spindleberry is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any climbing spindleberry on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread climbing spindleberry 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.

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

## How do I get rid of it?

**Spraying:** Use for scrambling plants that are not climbing high into other vegetation in late spring and summer.

Spray with triclopyr (e.g. Grazon or Agpro Triclop).

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 60 ml per 10 L of water.

With Handgun use 300 ml per 100 L of water.

Add penetrant (e.g. Organosilicone or Pulse) to the spray mix. Use 10 ml per 10 L spray mix.

**Stump treatment:** Use during spring and summer for large plants growing high into other vegetation.

Use glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®) at the rate of 1 part glyphosate to 4 parts water (e.g. 1 cup to 4 cups).

Cut the vines, leaving about 200 mm above the ground.

Apply herbicide mix liberally to the cut surface and sides of the stump to ground level using a small trigger sprayer or knapsack.

Or use Vigilant gel. Apply a blob of gel to the freshly cut surface.

Repeat treatments will be necessary for several years.

