

Cape Ivy

Senecio angulatus

**Total Control Plant under the
West Coast Regional Pest Plant
Management Strategy**



Suspected sightings of this Total Control Plant should be reported promptly to the West Coast Regional Council

Where has Cape Ivy come from?

Cape Ivy is a native of South Africa, originally introduced into New Zealand as a garden plant and now escaped to become a major pest plant in many part of the country.

What does Cape Ivy look like?

Cape Ivy is an invasive perennial with a scrambling rather than climbing habit. It can grow rapidly across the ground, smothering existing low growing native vegetation and growing over native shrubs up to 2m in height.

Its' dark green leaves are thick, fleshy succulent, broadly diamond shaped, with a few toothed margins and thick stems often with a red purple tinge. The conspicuous flowers are yellow, daisy-like and borne on loose heads over winter.

Numerous hairy or fluffy seed heads are spread by the wind and established plants send out runners which send down roots (suckering).

Cape Ivy usually prefers dry locations, often near the coast but this has not prevented it forming a least two known patches on the wetter West Coast.



Why is Cape Ivy a Pest Plant?

Cape Ivy is a pest plant because it smothers other wanted or native plants and forms dense matted thickets which are difficult to eradicate because every fragment has the potential to send down roots and form a new plant.

Despite preferring warm, drier sites as per its origin, the plant is proving adaptable to a range of climates in New Zealand including the West Coast. With limited sites known on the West Coast at Hector and in the Buller Gorge, eradication of this plant here is possible.

*Above: Cape Ivy growing over native bush
Top right: Cape Ivy in flower [Photos ARC]*

What are the best methods of control?

A combination of methods, such as slashing followed by hand-grubbing and herbicide application is recommended for eradication of Cape Ivy. Whilst the extent of an infestation is most readily seen during flowering (winter) spray applications are best done over summer. Some trial and error, plus persistence, may be needed to achieve final eradication.

Manual Methods

Grub out small single plants, taking care to get all plant fragments. For larger patches options are slashing, weed-eating, mowing, rotary slashing and grubbing with followup grubbing of any regrowth. Plant material should be disposed of in black plastic bags to landfill or left lying in the sun, in the bags, to rot.

Herbicide Methods

There are two main choices here, partly depending on whether the plants Cape Ivy is smothering are wanted or not.

- Small thickets: Cut stems and paint with herbicide immediately.
Use 100ml glysophate/1L OR 1g metsulfuron/1L
- Larger thickets: Cut stems at hip to waist height and spray below the area of Cape Ivy below.
Spray 100ml glysophate + 20ml penetrant /10L
OR 2g metsulfuron + 10ml penetrant /10L
OR handgun at 20g metsulfuron + 100ml penetrant/100L

For personal safety please use all herbicides as per manufacturer's labelling

Biocontrols

There are no known biocontrol agents for Cape Ivy at present.

Where can I get more help?

For further information call either of the Regional Weedbusters Co-ordinators. They are:

Mary Traves: Environmental Information Officer, West Coast Regional Council (768 0466 or 0508 800 118)

Tom Belton: Technical Support Officer Biosecurity & Weeds, Department of Conservation, West Coast - Tai Poutini Conservancy, Hokitika (03 756 9100)



www.weedbusters.org.nz

The West Coast Regional Council does not accept liability for any advice given on this sheet regarding application of herbicides for pest plant control. The brand names listed imply neither endorsement of those brands, nor criticism of any other brands not listed.