

# Cape Ivy

Coast Action/ Coastcare

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**Botanical Name:** *Delairea odorata*

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Origin:** South Africa



## Distribution



## Weed Dispersal

Seed is dispersed by wind and water. Dumped garden waste, containing seeds and stem pieces, contributes to its spread.

## Indigenous Look-a-likes

There are no Australian plants that resemble Cape Ivy. However it is similar to English Ivy, another environmental weed!

## Identification

### Form

CLIMBER- Dense, perennial, creeping, ground cover or climber.

### Leaf

Fleshy, lush, green, ivy-shaped leaf with 5-7 lobes. Leaves arranged singly on alternate sides of stem and variable in size. Paired kidney-



shaped blades are present at base of large leaf stalks, but may be absent on older stems. Leaves are often shiny.



### Flower

Conspicuous clusters of small, unpleasantly scented yellow, daisy-like flower heads. July - September.

### Seed

A tiny seed with a crown of hairs which drop off after the seed has dispersed.



## Management

Permission should be sought from the land manager before any weed control is undertaken.

### Removal methods

Remove small and scattered plants first and then target outer edges of larger infestations. **Best removed before seed is set.**

*Fine roots form at well developed nodes along the semi-succulent stems. During removal these easily break off, remaining in the ground to develop new plants.*

#### Small Plants

Start with vines growing up trees to prevent flowering and further spread by seed.



Cut climbing stems with secateurs and leave to die in shrubs or trees.



Gently hand pull or dig up stem runners. Follow the long runners to their source, carefully removing these and forking out main roots.

#### Large Established Plants



Treat as for small plants except carefully dig out roots or stems on the ground, or



**Immediately** paint with a suitable herbicide any cut stump that is to be left in the soil.



**For large infestations** spray foliage with herbicide, but avoid spraying any native vegetation that the plant is climbing through. **If using herbicide, paint/spray when plant is actively growing.**

### Disposal

Remove all stem parts from the ground as they will take root and regrow. Seal in strong bags and take to the tip. Alternatively, if removal from site is difficult, ensure stems are placed off the ground (on branches or a platform) to dry out and decompose.

### Maintenance

Monitor sites regularly for regrowth or new seedlings. Heavy mulching with appropriate material will suppress new seedling growth. Hand weed repeatedly to remove any new seedlings or regrowth.

### Life Cycle

The life cycle may vary according to seasons and site conditions such as soil type, aspect and location.



### Replacement Plants

Replace Cape Ivy with appropriate indigenous plants. Encourage indigenous plant regeneration. Seek advice from your local indigenous nursery or your NRE Coast Action/Coastcare Facilitator.

## Herbicide Recommendations

- Always consider manual weed removal methods before herbicide treatments, to avoid the unnecessary introduction of herbicides into the natural environment.
- Information on up-to-date herbicide treatment is available from herbicide companies.
- Users of herbicides should read the label fully, follow directions carefully and ensure that correct precautions and procedures are applied. To do otherwise is at the user's own risk.
- It is advisable for at least one member of any environment group to have undertaken an approved chemical safety course. See local TAFE courses.

## Did you know?

- Cape Ivy is an invasive plant and a very serious threat to indigenous vegetation.
- It is a vigorous climber which strangles or smothers indigenous vegetation.
- Once established, the spread of Cape Ivy is usually vegetative and by seed.
- Cape Ivy can root from any stem parts that touch the soil.
- It especially likes moist areas.
- Cape Ivy was introduced as a garden plant and may be available from commercial nurseries.
- The botanical name for Cape Ivy was formerly *Senecio mikanioides*.

## Feedback

New information is vital. Please inform your local DNRE Coast Action/Coastcare Facilitator of your weed management results.

## References

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