

Cat's-claw creeper - *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

Form: Rampant woody spreading and climbing perennial vine, initially attaching to support by fine claw-like leaf hooks then strong spreading roots from stems; multiple root tubers up to 50cm long and 8cm thick from which it regrows after control.

Leaves: Evergreen; in opposite pairs along young stems, 2 spreading dark green oval pointed leaflets 2-4cm long and a terminal 3-hooked tendril.

Flowers: Spring; hanging clusters of bright yellow flowers each 4-8cm long.

Fruits: Autumn and winter; slender hanging pods 30-40cm long splitting to release small brown winged wind-blown seeds.

Impacts: Very severe. Totally smothers ground, climbs trees and other supports, smothering shrubs and trees. Class 3 Declared Plant (June 2010). Still found in old gardens, from which it should be eradicated.

Control: Difficult and time-consuming. Seedlings - dig out with tubers and dispose of elsewhere or spray. Ground and low-level mats - repeated sprays with fairly dilute herbicide better than one concentrated spray. Climbing vines- cut stems close to ground level and poison or basal spray. See DPI Fact Sheet for current herbicide recommendations.

Ongoing management: Check area every year and control new and regenerating plants.



Copyright Image supplied by Qld. Dept of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation



Copyright Image supplied by Qld. Dept of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation