

## Climbing asparagus - *Asparagus africanus*

**Form:** Perennial thorny climbing vine to 12m tall, with multiple stems.

**Leaves:** True leaves absent, replaced by tufts of fine bright green leaf-like hairs c. 1cm long.

**Stems:** Several from base, climbing by recurved spines, 2-12m long, branching towards ends.

**Flowers:** Spring and summer. Clusters of 3-5mm wide whitish flowers along upper stems.

**Fruits:** Summer and autumn. Orange berries c. 5mm across. Seeds spread by birds.

**Impacts:** Serious. Smothers creek bank and rainforest shrubs and trees. Class 3 Declared Plant (June 2010).

**Control:** Dig out crowns leaving side roots in soil, hang crowns above ground to dry out. Spot spray. See DPI Fact Sheet for current herbicide recommendations. Still found in old gardens, from which it should be eradicated.

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



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