

Chilean flame creeper

Tropaeolum speciosum)

What does it look like?

Chilean flame creeper is a climbing perennial vine that dies back in winter. Each spring, it re-sprouts from a fleshy underground root. It produces vibrant red flowers from November onwards followed by deep blue fruits that are eaten by birds. Tolerates warm to cold temperatures, salt, winds, many soil types and damp to dry conditions.

Why is it a problem?

Chilean flame creeper is invasive along the bush edge and in light gaps where it forms a curtain that smothers native trees and shrubs. Chilean flame creeper is difficult to completely remove from an area once it has established.



Control methods

Physical control:

- Hand pull seedlings if you get to them while they are young. Care is required to ensure the underground root is completely removed, otherwise the vines will re-grow.
- Pulling down vines or cutting at knee height can help release vegetation being smothered by Chilean flame creeper. Vines gathered on the ground can be sprayed as suggested below.

Chemical control:

- Spraying: Chilean flame creeper has proven difficult to control by spraying. A suggested method is to use Organic Interceptor (100 ml/L water) where other vegetation may be harmed. Where a dense curtain of Chilean flame creeper occurs, glyphosate (20 ml + penetrant/L water) or Grazon (6 ml/L water) can be used, but care is required to make sure other vegetation is not damaged.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

Extremely hard to kill, rootstock and stems re-prout. Follow up control at 6 month intervals.

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