

# Climbing spindle berry

## *Celastrus orbiculatus*

### Notify Council

If you think you have found Climbing spindleberry, report it to GW within 10 working days. Call us on our Freephone 0800 496 734.

### What does it look like?

Climbing spindleberry is a perennial, deciduous, twining climber that grows 12-15 metres high. Branches are greyish-brown. Young branches are green and often have sharp spines. The serrated leaves are 5-10 cm long, tapered, alternately spaced, and turn yellow in autumn. It produces clusters of small (4-10 mm across), green flowers. Yellow-orange capsules split open to reveal scarlet fruit in early summer.

This aggressive woody vine climbs over rocks and trees and sometimes covers the ground. In New Zealand it tolerates a range of climates and soils, but is less common on drought-prone soils. It is mainly found in scrub, shrubland and young forest and can establish on forest margins. Climbing spindleberry seedlings establish under moderate shade in New Zealand, primarily in the early stages of vegetation succession, then grow up more or less simultaneously with the supporting trees.



### Why is it a problem?

An individual plant may spread to cover as much as 170m<sup>2</sup>. The weight of the plant can cause canopy collapse. Layered stems form dense, impenetrable thickets which prevent native plants regenerating. Seedlings from the fruit of this plant are uncommon, it usually grows and spreads by underground roots that form new stems.



### Control Methods

#### Physical control

Dig out seedlings and small plants: Dispose of as much as possible either at landfill or by burning. Any material left on site must not be in contact with the ground as it will re-root.

#### Herbicide control

Cut stems as close to the ground as possible and paste with glyphosate (360g/L active ingredient) at 250ml/L water, or with picloram/triclopyr herbicide (picloram 100g/L and triclopyr 300g/L active ingredient) at 100ml/L of water. Or,

Spray from spring-summer with picloram/triclopyr herbicide (picloram 100g/L and triclopyr 300g/L active ingredient) at 6ml/L, plus penetrant if the product does not contain one. For large stands, it is best to cut and dispose of stems in autumn, and spray regrowth in spring.

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

### Related Links

Ministry for Primary Industries <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/706/Climbing-spindle-berry>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.aspx?ID=3642](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3642)

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Celastrus-orbiculatus.html>

Unwanted Organisms Register [https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor-cgi/uor.pl/show?species\\_id=36754](https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor-cgi/uor.pl/show?species_id=36754)

GW Regional Pest Management Plan <https://www.gw.govt.nz/environment/pest-management/Weedbusters> <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/climbing-spindle-berry/>

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## Rules

No person shall possess any Climbing spindle berry (including any seeds or live vegetation) within the Wellington Region.

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

The National Pest Plant Accord is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment.

## Report this Pest/Weed

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/your-council/contact-us/contact-form/>

## Management Programme

Sustained Control programme