

Blue morning glory

Ipomoea indica

What does it look like?

High climbing vine with tough, hairy, twining, stems. Tough fibrous roots without rhizomes. Leaves (5-18 x 5-16cm) are usually 3-lobed (trumpet-shaped) and silky-hairy underneath.

From late spring to early winter, groups of 3-12 deep blue-purple flowers that are pink at the base and wither in the midday sun are produced. Little or no seed is produced in New Zealand, so this plant is spread almost completely by garden dumping and spreading from the affected area.

Why is it a problem?

Blue morning glory grows at a fast rate and tolerates a wide range of conditions from hot to cool, damp to dry. It does particularly well near water or in high humidity/rainfall areas. Its dense smothering habit and ability to climb to the top of the forest canopy, makes it the dominant vine wherever it occurs, and it will ultimately kill the plants it covers, resulting in forest replaced with a low weedy blanket.



Control Methods

Physical control

Hand-pull small plants any time of year, ensuring all stem and root fragments are dug out. Dispose of roots at landfill. Ensure any vine matter left behind is not in contact with the ground, as fragments can re-root and form a new plant.

Herbicide control

Cut stems as close to the ground as possible and cover with metsulfuron gel (10g/L strength) as soon as possible after cutting. Or,

Brush undiluted glyphosate (360g/L active ingredient) or glyphosate gel (120g/L strength) on underside of individual leaves on each stem. Ensure herbicide resistant gloves are worn.

Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg active ingredient) at 0.5g/L of water using a handheld sprayer. Add penetrant at the label rate.

Note: Metsulfuron overspray will kill other (desirable) broadleaf plants and has residual activity in the soil which aids in killing below ground parts. Do not use over or near water bodies or wetlands.

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/681/Blue-morning-glory>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3308

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Ipomoea-indica.html>

Unwanted Organisms Register https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor/cgi/uor.pl/show?species_id=36667

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/blue-morning-glory/>

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Rules

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.