

Greater bindweed

Calystegia silvatica

What does it look like?

Great bindweed is a scrambling, twining vine. From October to May it produces white, trumpet-like flowers that are up to 9cm in diameter. The large, arrow-shaped leaves are arranged alternately along the stems and usually die back during winter. It has thick, white roots that can spread out over wide distances.

Great bindweed is common in New Zealand and can be found in gardens, road sides, waste places, forest edges, and wetlands.

Why is it a problem?

With its extensive root system, greater bindweed spreads easily. It scrambles up and over other plants and outcompetes them by smothering. Mostly spreads via vegetation movement due to its ability to grow from fragments, thus care must be taken to dispose of all root material when carrying out control.



Control Methods

Physical control

Hand pull small plants any time of the year, ensuring all stem and root fragments are dug out. Dispose of roots at landfill and leave the tops of the vines to rot away on site.

Herbicide control

Cut larger stems and apply metsulfuron gel (10g/L strength) to cut surfaces as soon as possible after cutting. Or,

Leaf paint: brush undiluted glyphosate (360g/L active ingredient) or glyphosate gel on underside of individual leaves on each branch. Ensure herbicide resistant gloves are worn. Or,

Foliar spray: apply metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg active ingredient) at a rate of 0.5g/L of water. 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 and use only as directed on label.

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

Related Links

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3588

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Calystegia-silvatica.html>

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

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