



# WEED FACT SHEET



## **Madeira Vine**

*Andredera cordifolia*



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

## DESCRIPTION

A vine with fleshy, heart-shaped leaves. The plant has numerous potato-like aerial tubers along the stem and in the ground. Underground tubers can be extensive and numerous. Flowers in March-April with a long (10-20cm) spray of cream-coloured flowers. Flowers do not produce viable seed however; the plant spreads vegetatively so any part of the leaves, stem, roots or tubers can grow. Often seen as a dense mass of thick leaves draped over trees and fences.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The spread of Madeira Vine in coastal communities is rapid due to copious amounts of aerial tubers. It has the potential to smother native vegetation as it forms a blanket over the tree canopy. It grows aggressively in many types of environments and tolerates a wide range of conditions including salt and drought. It particularly favours sheltered gullies and warm, damp conditions so is a particular threat to local rainforest communities. It is also poisonous to stock. Madeira Vine is difficult to completely eradicate because of the extensive underground tubers which require tedious hand digging and years of ongoing maintenance.



**Madeira Vine Aerial Tubers** – never cut the vine until you inactivated the tubers



**Dense Madeira Vine at Wingham Brush smothering native vegetation**

*Photo Courtesy of B. Mathie*

## HOW TO CONTROL IT

There are a number of methods to effectively remove Madeira Vine however a long term maintenance regime is essential to ensure eradication. Effectively reducing the spreading potential of the infestation is a good initial strategy. It is important to act early and remove the first signs of the plant.

**Aim to contain it-** remove vines from the canopy and small trails of vines that are creeping out from the main patch. It is possible to spray the lower vines with glyphosate, but always use Biactive spray if spraying near waterways. Follow-up maintenance will always be necessary with Madeira Vine so be patient with it!



**Madeira Vine covering a fence in Gerringong**

## METHODS

Keep in mind that Madeira vine spreads easily by the aerial tubers which drop to the ground when the vine is severed. Try not to cut the vines that are going up trees unless you have laid a tarp or plastic sheet down to catch the aerial tubers. Note these can take a number of weeks to drop.

The Stem scrape method is a good strategy to try and slowly allow the poison to be absorbed into the aerial tubers before they drop. To do this, scrape a thin layer of the outer surface of the vine in 20cm lengths from ground level to as high up as possible. This may have to be repeated as the plant slowly dies over a number of weeks.

The underground tubers need to be removed by hand digging with a trowel and placed in a bag to be removed off-site.

It is possible to spray the dense infestations with Glyphosate 1:50 solution however this will still require follow up sprays or hand removal.



## THE STEM-SCRAPE METHOD

1. Scrape the top layer of the stem surface in 10-20cm sections starting from the ground using a knife or secateurs
2. Quickly apply a generous amount of straight Glyphosate 360 solution in a hand applicator bottle to the scraped section
3. Work your way up the stem to as high as possible
4. Repeat for all stems you can reach
5. Wait a few weeks and return to retreat the stems that are still alive

## DISPOSAL

Madeira Vine must be removed off-site in bags. Leave the tubers sealed in the bag and completely dry them out. Then burn them or dispose of them in a sealed bag in the hard rubbish. Contact local waste management services for more information.

## OTHER INFORMATION

- Video Demonstration [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L7GBMF2NU4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L7GBMF2NU4)  
By Pittwater Eco-Warriors
- Noxious Weeds  
[http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/noxious\\_weeds/vines\\_\\_and\\_\\_scramblers/madeira\\_vine](http://www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/noxious_weeds/vines__and__scramblers/madeira_vine)