

# Banana passionfruit

## Passifloraceae - *Passiflora tripartita*



### What does it look like?

Banana passionfruit is a vigorous, evergreen, high-climbing vine. It can grow up to 10m, with long, hairy stems which have many spiralling tendrils. Leaves are 3-lobed (each lobe 5-14 cm long) with middle lobe the longest. Leaves have a furry underside and serrated edges.

It flowers from January to December, and has pink hanging flowers (7 cm diameter) with a central tube (6-9 cm long). After flowering, it begins to fruit. Fruit are thin skinned, and are approximately 7- 12 x 2-4 cm. These fruit ripen from green to yellow or orange, with sweet edible orange pulp and dark red seeds (4-6 mm long).

Plants are most commonly found in disturbed/high light areas of forest, forest margins and edges, however it can also invade the coastal environment.

### Why is it a problem?

Banana passionfruit grows rapidly in most soil types, and produces highly viable seed in two years. It is relatively tolerant to shade, damage and drought. Stems take root where they touch the ground.

The weed generally reaches its peak growth in the medium-high canopy section of the forest, where it forms large masses which weigh down on canopy species and block out light, causing canopy collapse. After this, other weeds can easily invade due to the high light and disturbance.

### Control methods

#### Physical control:

- Hand pull whenever possible or dig plant out at the roots.
- Cut off above ground or tie stems in air to prevent layering.

#### Herbicides:

- Cut and stump treat larger stems (within 10 minutes of cutting) with 1g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 1L water; OR 200ml glyphosate (360g/L) per 1L water;
- Spray masses on the ground where roots can't be pulled with 30ml triclopyr (300g/L) + 20ml penetrant per 10L water or 100ml glyphosate + 20ml penetrant per 10L water.

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

### [Request info](#)

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=55>

### Management programme

- Organisms of interest

### Summary of rules

- No person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any Banana passionfruit. For full rules please see Sections 52 and 53 of the [Biosecurity Act 1993](#).