

Banana passionfruit

Passiflora tripartita

What is council doing about this?

In the Hutt City area, if banana passionfruit is encroaching from a reserve onto the property of an adjacent landowner or has become a fire hazard, Hutt City Council will clear the shared boundary of banana passionfruit.

What does it look like?

Vigorous, evergreen, high-climbing vine. Grows up to 10 metres high with long, hairy stems which have many spiralling tendrils. Leaves have three lobes (each lobe 5-14 cm long) with the middle lobe the longest. Leaves have a furry underside and serrated edges.

Pink, hanging flowers (7 cm diameter) with a central tube (6-9.5 cm long) appear, followed by hanging, thin-skinned fruit (up to 12 x 4 cm in size). Fruit ripens from green to yellow or orange, with sweet edible orange pulp and dark red seeds (4-6 mm long).

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



Why is it a problem?

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

Generally reaches climax 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, preventing establishment of native plants and causing canopy collapse. After this, other weeds can easily invade due to the high light levels 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.

Herbicide control

Cut and stump treat larger stems with metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg e.g. Escort®) at 1g/L water. Or, glyphosate (360g/L e.g. Roundup®) at 200ml/L water. Or,

Spray masses on the ground where roots can't be pulled with triclopyr (e.g. Grazon®) at 6ml/L water + penetrant, or glyphosate at 10ml/L water + penetrant.

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

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Related Links

Ministry for Primary Industries <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/458/Banana-passionfruit>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/>

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Passiflora-tripartita.html>

Unwanted Organisms Register https://www1.maf.govt.nz/uor-cgi/uor.pl/show?species_id=39630

GW Regional Pest Management Plan <https://www.gw.govt.nz/environment/pest-management/>

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/banana-passionfruit/>

Hutt City Council pest plant programme <https://www.huttcity.govt.nz/environment-and-sustainability/what-you-can-do/pest-plant-programme>

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).

An occupier shall, on receipt of a written direction from an authorised person, destroy* all banana passionfruit, cathedral bells, climbing asparagus, old man's beard, and pampas on the land they occupy. This rule only applies to the Hutt City Council territory.

*For the purposes of this rule, destroy means the permanent preclusion of the plant's ability to set viable seed.

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.

Management Programme

Site-led