

Banana passionfruit

Passifloraceae - *Passiflora tripartita*



What does it look like?

This weed is a vigorous, evergreen, high-climbing vine.

Grows up to 10m high with long, hairy stems which have many spiralling tendrils. Leaves are 3-lobed (each lobe 5-14cm long) with middle lobe the longest. Furry underside & serrated edges.

Banana passionfruit has hanging flowers (7cm diameter) with central tube (60-95mm long) appear, followed by hanging, thin-skinned fruit (7- 12 x 2-4cm). These fruit ripen 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, forest margins and edges, however it can also invade the coastal environment.

Most commonly spotted: Flowers throughout the year in Tairāwhiti, December to January in other regions.

Why is it a problem?

Banana passionfruit is an environmental pest that climbs quickly into the canopy and tall trees. Forms large dense masses, smothering native seedlings and eventually their hosts. After this, other weeds can easily invade due to the high light and disturbance. Stems that touch the ground form roots and new plants, spread by humans, animal species and by roadside vehicles.

Grows rapidly in most soil types, and produces highly viable seed in 2 years. Relatively tolerant to shade, damage and drought.

Control methods

1. Pull roots up (all year round): Ensure roots don't reconnect with ground or tie stems in air to prevent them forming roots on contact with soil.
2. Cut trunk and paint stump (all year round): cut trunk near to the ground, and swab freshly cut stump

For agricultural control refer to: [Banana passionfruit • Weedbusters](#)

More information

Other similar species: Several *Passiflora* species such as NZ passionfruit/*Kohia P. tetrandra*, native to the Wellington/Te Whanga-nui-a-Tara region and has a smaller pod shaped fruit, burnt orange in colour. Other exotic species include; *P. pinnatistipula*, *P. antioquiensis*, *P. caerulea* and *P. edulis*.

Management programme

- Progressive Containment
- National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)

Rules

- Council will work with landowner/occupier, including developing agreements for the effective management of this pest to protect the values of specific sites.

For more information about this rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan under related links

- **Rule 1.08:** All land occupiers shall on a complaints basis, and unless otherwise agreed between the neighbours and authorised Council staff, destroy this pest plant on their land within 50m of a boundary with an adjacent property within 21 calendar days of being notified of the presence of the pest, where the adjacent land occupier is controlling these pests on their land. This pest is included in specific rules for mapped progressive containment pest plant rules **1.05**, **1.06** and **1.07** (notification, roading authorities and awareness rules).

For more information refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan.