



INVASIVE WEED ALERT  
**CLIMBING**  
**ASPARAGUS**



For help & advice please call  
Mangawhai - Martina on 027 4490 464  
Waipu to Langs - Coralie on 027 4320 293



habitat@piroaconservation.org.nz

## What does it look like?

Slender scrambling or climbing perennial with tuberous roots, and long green, thin, wiry stems (2-4 m long) that are much branched at the top. Leaves ((5-15 mm x 1-1.5 mm) are flat cladodes (leaf-like structures, resembling miro), and are usually in groups of three at each node. Tiny whitish flowers (Sep-Dec) are followed by round berries (8 mm diameter, Oct-Feb) that ripen from green to orange-red and contain 1-2 seeds each.

## What damage does it do?

Smothers forest floor and understorey to 4 m, preventing the establishment of native plant seedlings and growth of established species. Raises light levels, causing the invasion of further weeds.

Can ringbark and kill soft-barked shrubs and trees, and invades areas where epiphytes are usually found, replacing already vulnerable species

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Disturbed and intact lowland and coastal forest, shrublands, mature broadleaf and/or podocarp forests, epiphyte niches, and forest edges.

## Control Methods

- Maintain rolling front of control, work out from inner bush.
- Dig out crowns and hang in the tree to die. Other plant material can be left on site to rot down.
- New trials suggest glyphosate (360g/l) at 3.5ml per litre of water without penetrant. Lower concentration does not affect native trees but good coverage will kill climbing asparagus.

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

