

CLIMBING ASAPARAGUS

Asparagus scandens



CLIMBING ASPARAGUS SAPPLING



CLIMBING ASPARAGUS INFESTATION



CLIMBING ASPARAGUS ROOT TUBERS

Also known as asparagus fern or myrsiphyllum scandens, climbing asparagus is a slender scrambling/climbing perennial species originally from South America, and brought into NZ as a garden plant. Climbing asparagus forms dense patches on forest ground and in the sub-canopy. It also has root tubers that can easily re-sprout.

It is a problem in Kaipātiki as it can stop native regeneration over large areas, and is spread by green waste and birds.

To help native plant and animal life flourish, removal of climbing asparagus should be conducted.

Features of Climbing Asparagus



- Tiny whitish flowers



- Flowers are followed by round berries that ripen from green to orange-red.



- Long green, thin, wiry stems, branched at the top.
- Miro-like leaves that are green and small.

CLIMBING ASPARAGUS

Manual Control

For any size plant:

- Dig up roots and tubers.
- Dispose of roots/tubers: You can place them in a container of water with a lid, in a heavy duty weed bag to rot down over a number of months, dry them out, or burn them. Both methods will take around one year.
- Leave stems and leaves on site to mulch down.
- Berries need to be collected and disposed of.

Herbicide Control

- For large infestations you can use foliage spray to kill climbing asparagus. For more information on foliar spray, please get in contact with us.

Important

- **When removing climbing asparagus** be aware of the tubers that are attached to the roots of the plant. If these tubers fall off or are left behind, they will readily sprout into a new plant. Also be aware of berries on the plants, as these contain two seeds each.
- ***For all herbicides:** avoid contact with skin and eyes; Read labels thoroughly before use; Apply sparingly, only in dry weather conditions; Avoid dripping onto soil or using near waterways. Cut'n'Paste MetGel is a Trademark. MetGel can affect non-target plants through soil transmission.

Habitat and Distribution

- Climbing asparagus is likely to inhabit disturbed and intact lowland and coastal forest, shrublands, mature broadleaf and/or podocarp forests, epiphyte niches, and forest edges

Method of Spread

- Climbing asparagus mainly spreads via dumping of green waste (that contains the climbing asparagus tubers) into reserves. It is also largely spread by blackbirds whom eat the berries and spread seed around.

Life Cycle

- Climbing asparagus flowers from September to December. These are then followed by berries that occur between October and February.

Further Information

To prevent infestation and reseeding, DO NOT dispose of climbing asparagus tubers in your compost, or in regular garden waste bins. Please safely destroy the tubers, as stated in the manual control method.

If you have questions, want assistance, or want to borrow weeding resources, email pestplants@pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz

For more information on pest plants including disposal, visit www.pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz/pest-plant-resources



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