

Banana passionfruit

(Passiflora spp.)



Large infestations of the banana passionfruit vine are apparent on the roadsides of the Otago Peninsula. It is also frequently found as an ornamental creeper in private gardens.

Why is banana passionfruit a pest plant?

Banana passionfruit invades bush edges and shrublands. This vigorous vine is capable of climbing into the tree canopy and forming large masses which overtop and smother the supporting trees. Extensive infestations alter light levels, which can kill mature trees and prevent the establishment of native species.

How do I identify banana passionfruit?

Evergreen vine, with three lobed, shiny green leaves with toothed edges and soft hairs underneath. Large, hanging pink star-shaped flowers are produced in summer. The fruit is large, ripening to yellow. The fruit is very attractive to humans, birds and possums who eat it and spread the seed.



Suggested control options

Dig out small plants and remove all roots. Alternatively cut vines & immediately paint stump with one of the following:

Escort[®], Tordon[®], Vigilant gel[™], Grazon[®] or Banvine[®]. Leave vines on trees to minimise damage to supporting plants. Put cuttings in a bag and leave in sun to cook before disposing. Control is best undertaken before fruit is set.

Use herbicides at application rates recommended by the manufacturer and wear protective clothing.

Disclaimer: Mention of product trade names does not endorse these products nor imply criticism of similar products not mentioned. Although this fact sheet has been prepared in good faith the Otago Regional Council does not give any warranty that the information is accurate or complete or that it is suitable for all circumstances.

Follow up management

Control of a pest plant is not a one-off task. Follow up action must be regularly undertaken, for example, checking a cleared site for regrowth and seedling establishment. Stumps may resprout. Plant a friendly alternative such as native Clematis or Parsonsia (native jasmine) species.