

CAPE IVY

(*Senecio angulatis*)



Cape ivy is more a scrambling shrub than a true climber. It is often found in dry open sites on the coast.

WHY IS CAPE IVY A PEST PLANT?

Cape ivy grows rapidly over the ground smothering all species of low stature. It can also scramble over and smother native shrubs up to 2 metres tall.

Native coastal vegetation and forest remnants are threatened by its vigorous and heavy growth.

HOW DO I IDENTIFY CAPE IVY?

The dark green leaves are thick, fleshy succulent, broadly diamond shape with a few toothed margins and thick stems often with a red purple tinge.

Cape ivy can spread rapidly by runners and the production of numerous suckers. Branch tips may arch over, forming new plants. Small fragments can sprout roots and grow. The numerous fluffy seeds are spread by wind.

SUGGESTED CONTROL OPTIONS

Manual control methods include slashing, weed-eating, mowing, rotary slashing and grubbing. Use of these methods, however, will usually result in some regrowth occurring. Dig out small infestations and dispose of roots and stems by putting them in a black plastic bag and leave to rot in the sun or take the sealed bag to a landfill.

For best results, cut stems and immediately apply herbicide: Versatill® or Tordon® during active growth periods. Use herbicides at application rates recommended by the manufacturer and wear protective clothing.

Control of this pest plant is not a one-off task. Follow up action must be regularly undertaken. The site should be checked for regrowth and seedling establishment.

Disclaimer

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Under the Pest Management Plan for Otago, all land occupiers are responsible for controlling pest plants on their property. Any breach of this rule is an offence under the Biosecurity Act.

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