

Mignonette Vine

Anredera cordifolia

Mignonette vine has the ability to compete with and replace native plants in disturbed or low forest, forest margins and coastal areas. In some of these situations it will block native plant succession and regeneration modifying the structure of the ecosystem. It can topple and kill small trees due to the weight of the growth and because of this has become a problem in urban reserves and gardens where it often becomes the dominant species.



Status

Mignonette vine is of low incidence in some areas of the Region and containment or eradication is considered possible. It is on this basis that Mignonette vine is declared a Total Control Plant Pest within the Waitakere Ranges and Great Barrier Island area only. This means that land occupiers within this area, are required to control infestations of this plant growing on their land.

However, throughout the rest of the Auckland Region, this plant is declared a National Surveillance Plant Pest. This means that land occupiers are encouraged to remove or control this plant growing on their land, but without legal obligation.

Mignonette Vine is also banned from sale, propagation, distribution or commercial display. However, should you see this plant in the Waitakere Ranges or Great Barrier Island area, please report it immediately to the Auckland Regional Council which will arrange for its control.



Flowers

Fleshy leaves

Origin

This native of South America was originally brought to New Zealand as an ornamental species and was first recorded as growing wild in 1940. Mignonette vine is widespread throughout urban areas of the Auckland Region, but has not yet invaded many areas of high conservation value outside these areas. The plant is also found in Northland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Nelson and the Port Hills in Canterbury.

Description

Mignonette vine is a hairless perennial creeper arising from a fleshy rhizome. It has bright green, alternate, heart-shaped fleshy leaves which grow from reddish brown stems. Tubers grow underground and ginger-like aerial tubers are produced prolifically along the plant's stems and vines. The strongly scented creamy flowers are arranged in slender spikes which droop from the leaf axils. It flowers from January to April but does not produce any seed, only tubers.

Mignonette vine generally prefers fertile soils in warm moist climates.

Once established it quickly climbs into the full light canopy of shrubs and trees. Its preferred habitats include waste places, bush margins, disturbed or low forest, urban gardens, rocky places and coastal areas.

Invasion

The plant reproduces through the shedding and spread of the ginger-like stem tubers. Each of these can generate a new plant. Spread is usually by humans dumping garden refuse or moving topsoil containing tubers. Flood water can also disperse tubers.



Aerial tubers found on stems

Control

Smaller plants can be grubbed out ensuring that all of the tubers are collected and removed. These need to be disposed of safely (e.g. burial at least 60cm deep). Any tubers or stems left on the ground will regrow.

Larger infestations can be controlled by carefully cutting back any growth covering desirable vegetation and spraying the remaining growth with the following:

- **Knapsack Application:**
 - Escort 5 gms + 10 mls Pulse per 10 litres water
 - Versatill 60 mls + 10 mls Pulse per 10 litres water
 - Grazon 60 mls per 10 litres water
- **Handgun Application:**
 - Escort 35 gms per 100 litres water (no penetrant required)
 - Grazon 400 mls per 100 litres water

NOTE: Often the best option is overall spraying but be careful not to damage adjacent desirable plants. In all cases, follow-up will be required to find and destroy all tubers and subsequent regrowth. Versatill and Grazon work well on ground level tubers.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide read the label thoroughly and ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

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