

Blue morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*)



Hairy leaves with three lobes



Foliage and flower

Blue morning glory is a common, vigorous, climbing perennial vine that grows in forest and scrub margins in warmer areas. It is sensitive to frosts. It prefers full sun, but can survive in light shade and in either wet or dry conditions.

The stems and the underside of the leaves are hairy. Its stems twine and run from a fibrous root system, producing leaves with three lobes that are uneven in size. The large, distinctive, deep blue flowers of blue morning glory are short lived but the vines bloom all year round. The seed capsules are brown and papery and the seeds themselves look similar to peppercorns. Viable seeds are rarely formed in New Zealand, but the climber grows readily from stem fragments.

Small and large plants can be pulled out by hand, taking care to remove all roots and dispose of all stems safely. Alternatively the main stems can be cut and the rooted end painted with herbicide.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.