

Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*)



Fragrant yellow flowers with red stamens

Kahili ginger is a perennial with massive branching surface rhizomes and aerial stems up to 2 m in height. Extremely tolerant of shade, it forms large colonies on the fringes of bush, along streams and roadsides, in gullies and on river flats.

The leaves are large and roughly lance shaped. The attractive and fragrant yellow flowers with red stamens appear between January and March on large (25 - 45 cm long) flower spikes.

Birds, water movement and soil disturbance spread the seed, and the plant is also spread through the dumping of garden waste. Once established the plant spreads locally through growth of its rhizomes.

Young seedlings should be pulled out and disposed of carefully. For larger plants, the stems should be slashed and all the rhizomes dug out. The stems and leaves should be mulched and all the rhizomes disposed of by drying and then thoroughly burning them. Alternatively the cut stumps can be treated with herbicide or the whole plant can be sprayed with an appropriate herbicide.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.