

## Old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*)



Grows in wasteland, hedges and forests



4-petaled flowers are 2-3 cm in diameter

Old man's beard is a deciduous climber that grows in wasteland, along roadsides, in hedges and disturbed forests, as well as in domestic gardens.

The climber produces grey, fluffy balls of seed heads in autumn and these persist through winter and early spring. The leaves are in opposite pairs, each of 5 widely-spaced leaflets. Its 4-petaled flowers are 2-3 cm in diameter, creamy white and fragrant, appearing between December and May.

The seed is dispersed by both wind and water, and stem pieces will sprout and re-root wherever they touch the ground.

Any seedlings should be dug out and disposed of safely. Thick vines should be cut both at 1 m high and at ground level and the rooted stumps treated with herbicide. If appropriate, whole plants can be sprayed with herbicide.

**This plant can be easily confused with native species of Clematis. Native species are evergreen, have smooth vines (rather than furrowed), flower in spring (not summer and autumn) and usually have only 3 leaflets. Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**