

## Smilax\* (*Asparagus asparagoides*)



Vine



*Sticky red berries contain 1 - 9 small seeds*



*Small greenish-white flowers*

### **\* Also known as Bridal creeper**

Smilax is a scrambling or twining perennial vine that grows up to 3 m high in waste places, hedgerows and open woodlands, often in coastal areas.

The long, tortuous wiry stems arise from white, fleshy, tuberous roots. The leaves are almond shaped, solitary at each node and are pointed at the tip. In July and August small greenish-white flowers appear, developing into sticky red berries containing 1 - 9 small seeds. Birds disperse the seeds, and the plant is also spread through careless disposal of garden rubbish.

Smaller, scattered plants should be grubbed out, taking care to remove all the tubers and dispose of them carefully. Larger infestations should be treated during the active growing season with herbicide applied by weed-wiper or spray.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**