

Yellow ginger (*Hedychium flavescens*)



Lance shaped leaves, cone-like flower heads

Yellow ginger is a perennial with massive rhizomes and aerial stems up to 3 m in height. It is less common than the closely related kahili ginger but is taller, with more slender upright leaves. It spreads quickly in shaded coastal and lowland shrub areas, forest margins and stream sides.

Yellow ginger has stout, erect stems, thick fleshy rhizomes and lance shaped leaves. Unlike kahili ginger, its creamy-white flowers, produced in a cone-like flower head in May/June, do not have red stamens and do not produce seeds.

Once established the plant spreads by its rhizomes, and is spread from place to place by careless dumping of garden waste in waste areas and along roadsides.

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

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.