Blue passion flower (Passiflora caerulea)

Blue passion flower is a vigorous climbing vine. It prefers forest or shrubland margins with fertile soil, but will grow in a wide range of conditions.

It has angular hairless purplish shoots. The leaves are dark green and deeply 5-lobed, with the middle lobe up to 5cm long. White petals and a purple-blue hairy corona surround a stalked ovary and short stamens. Flowers are produced from December to March and followed by oval yellow fruit.

Seed spread is mainly by birds, and fruit is also known to be eaten by possums. In the past blue passionflower has been used as a rootstock for black passionfruit (Passiflora edulis) or grown itself as an ornamental.

Dig out seedlings or scattered plants. Vines may be cut and treated and larger infestations may be sprayed with herbicide, ensuring that the spray does not affect desirable plants.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.