

Balloon vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*)



Foliage, flower and papery seed capsules

Balloon vine is a perennial climber that can grow in moist situations along rivers, forest margins and road edges.

The plant gets its name from the large, hairy, inflated papery capsule that contains 3 small black seeds. Each leaf is divided into 3 leaflets and each leaflet further divided into three, with irregularly toothed edges. Its 4-petaled, white flowers bloom most of the year.

The papery capsules are its primary means of dispersal. They float on water or are easily blown by wind. The vine can also spread locally by rooting at the nodes of stems trailing along the ground.

This species is very rare in NZ, but has the potential to become a very serious problem. Any sightings should be reported to your Regional Council immediately.