

Chilean flame creeper (*Tropaeolum speciosum*)



The vine has blue-green, five-fingered leaves



Flowers are scarlet coloured and trumpet-like

Chilean flame creeper is a perennial vine that can climb high into tree canopies. It climbs rapidly in full sun and grows best in fertile, moist, well-drained soil.

The vine has slender stems with blue-green, five-fingered leaves, which die off over winter. The leaf stalks coil round and allow the plant to climb. The scarlet, trumpet-like flowers are present from summer through to autumn and are followed by blue berries.

Birds eat the berries and disperse the seed. The creeper also grows from stem fragments.

Individual plants or small infestations should be hand pulled. Larger infestations should be cut and dug up and all the vegetation carefully disposed of by burning, deeply burying, possibly by composting, or by taking to a landfill. The vines can be cut and the stumps treated with herbicide.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.