

Small balloon vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*)



Fruits are like a three-sided balloon

Small balloon vine is a branching perennial climber that grows to a height of 3 m. It thrives in full sun and well-drained soil and needs support in order to climb.

The leaves have three coarsely toothed and lobed leaflets. The plant has paired tendrils to help it climb. The flowers are minute, greenish white, and are followed by 2 cm fruits which are like a three-sided balloon. Inside the fruit the seed is black with a pale heart shaped mark.

This species does not yet occur in the wild in NZ, but has the potential to become a serious problem. Any sightings should be reported to your Regional Council immediately.