

Bluebell creeper

Billardiera heterophylla

- Sturdy climber that can grow to 5 metres with support of other plants.
- It can also grow on its own, usually forming a dense low shrub.
- It has shiny, bright green leaves to about 5cm long.
- Bell-shaped flowers are seen in summer, and are usually blue, but white forms can occur.
- Greenish-blue fruits are cylindrical in shape and contain many sticky seeds.

*Bluebell Creeper
growing on its
own*



Environmental Weed

REMOVING BLUEBELL CREEPER

By hand:

Seedlings and small plants can be hand pulled in moist or sandy soil. Take care as plants break off easily, and remaining roots left in the soil may grow new stems. Removed plants can be left on site to break down.

Cut and paint:

Cut stems as low to the ground as possible and paint undiluted glyphosate herbicide on the stump within 15 seconds.

Scrape and paint:

This method is for weedy vines and climbers as they often have thin stems that when cut off at the base provide an inadequate surface area for herbicide uptake. Using a sharp knife or secateurs, start from the base and make a 20cm long scrape on each stem. Be careful not to cut through the stem, scrapes need only be deep enough to expose the underlying green tissue. Apply undiluted glyphosate herbicide within 15 seconds.

Foliar spraying:

Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. As bluebell creeper often climbs over other plants, herbicide sprayed onto the leaves of bluebell creeper is very likely to harm surrounding vegetation. Therefore, other methods of control are recommended, especially in bushland areas. If foliar spraying is required, limit the application to smaller plants and regrowth.

Bluebell creeper can easily be confused with some native shrubs. Care should be taken to correctly identify bluebell creeper before any control methods are used. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the Natural Areas and Biodiversity team to confirm.

IMPACTS

Both *Billardiera heterophylla* and *Billardiera fusiformis* are known as bluebell creeper and are difficult to distinguish from each other. It is possible that these two names may well be part of a single variable species. Adding to the confusion, many people still refer to bluebell creeper by the old name *Sollya heterophylla*. Whilst there is some confusion about the taxonomy of bluebell creeper, more importantly is the fact that bluebell creeper is native to Western Australia, but not Tasmania. It has been planted in many gardens throughout Kingborough, from which it has then spread and invaded a wide range of landscapes. Bluebell creeper is an extremely invasive weed in woodlands and forests. It smothers native plants by out-competing for sunlight or strangling them with their twining stems.



Flowers



*Bluebell creeper
climbing native
trees.*