



Hedychium gardnerianum **GINGER LILY**

SEPTEMBER 2008

Ginger Lily was used during wartime rationing as a non-poisonous edible ginger substitute. Venomous funnel-web spiders are often found hiding among the root clumps of the plant.

DESCRIPTION

Ginger Lily is an impressive plant with long strap like leaves and large spikes of perfumed yellow and orange flowers, 24 to 45 cm long with red stamens. Ginger Lily is a perennial herb growing 2.5 m tall with a thick underground root system of rhizomes. Leaves are dark green, 20 to 45 cm long and 10-15 cm wide, and grow on a short stalk. Stems grow to 2 m in length. Seeds are scarlet coloured and angular, 6 mm long and 4 mm wide. Numerous seeds are held in capsules of 3 segments 1.5 to 1.8 cm long.

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Ginger Lily is a common garden escapee and is often found in and around urban areas. Once Ginger Lily is established both wind and water easily spread its seeds. The plants form dense colonies, and suppress native plants by shading them from sunlight, with its broad dark leaves, and by raiding the soil with its large network of roots and rhizomes. The Ginger Lily is also very poisonous to grazing stock and can be fatal if enough of the plant is eaten.

HABITAT

Ginger Lily invades forests and riverbanks. It is often found invading creek banks and watercourses close to urban areas. Ginger Lily prefers moist and shaded sites. However the plant can tolerate nutrient poor soils with poor drainage and also can endure sites in full shade or full sun.



Leaves and flower of Ginger Lily.
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

Originating in India, a popular ornamental Ginger Lily is widely available at nurseries and swapped among gardeners. Ginger Lily reproduces both vegetatively (rhizomes) and by seed. Seeds are predominantly spread by birds and in garden waste. The dumping of garden waste and contaminated soil is the major spread of Rhizomes.

DECLARATION

Ginger lily is an environmental weed in Sutherland Shire. It is important that environmental weeds be destroyed, as they can also affect human health, or can be invasive in the natural environment killing the native flora and reducing the natural biodiversity. Native animals may also be affected due to the loss of their natural habitat.

CONTROL

To remove, expose the woody rhizome just under the soil surface. Cut along both sides with a sharp knife. Lift the plant out and dispose of it thoroughly. Alternatively spray entire plant with Glyphosate in accordance with the label recommendations and follow all safety directions as indicated on the label.

For further information contact
Bushcare or Greenweb Units
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