



SEPTEMBER 2008

Anredera cordifolia **MADEIRA VINE**

A vigorous, hardy, perennial vine with fragrant blossom. It covers trees to 30 m high and smothers ground-flora. The underground tubers can survive between 5-10 years.

DESCRIPTION

The vine has fleshy, heart-shaped leaves with a glossy surface 3-12 cm long. The leaf edge and stalks are sometimes tinged with red and grow alternately on the stem. The young stem is green or red-green, hairless and cord-like. In maturity it looks like a rope, and can thicken to a diameter of several centimetres. Flower blossoms appear March-April. The small creamy-white flowers form long drooping sprays 6-20 cm length and are sweetly perfumed. The vines grow from underground tubers and aerial tubers that form on the mature stems. Underground tubers can develop to great size about 30 x 13 cm. Aerial tubers develop in large numbers along the stems, break off readily and shoot once they touch soil. They can also grow from 10 cm underground if buried.

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Madeira Vine is a devastating weed capable of smothering and obliterating all indigenous vegetation. It tolerates many soil and climatic conditions and reproduces from underground and aerial tubers. It is also poisonous to livestock. It has been said "Gardeners only make the mistake of planting it once but regret it for years, or move house".

HABITAT

Madeira Vine prefers warm, damp or seasonally moist locations with lightly shaded or sunny conditions. It has been used domestically for screening fences, sheds etc. It invades the edges of bushland, woodland and rainforest. Infestations rapidly expand as existing vegetation is smothered. Tolerant of drought, salt and frost, it will die back to the tuber and reshoot.



Flowers and leaves of Madeira Vine.
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

Madeira Vine is native to tropical South America. Originally a garden escapee in NSW and Queensland, it is now present throughout Australia. It is spread by garden waste, dumping and soil erosion, as the tubers are buoyant and readily transported via waterways. It is also sometimes exchanged by gardeners or sold at markets and fetes.

DECLARATION

Madeira Vine is a declared noxious weed in some council areas within NSW. Madeira Vine is considered an environmental weed in Sutherland Shire. However, it is still 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

Underground tubers can be dug out. Every piece must be gathered to prevent regrowth. Aerial tubers can be cut from vine. Vines are then severed and the underground tuber dug out. Do not commence work unless a tarpaulin covers the area below the vine to collect the tubers. Vines with aerial tubers are best treated using the Stem/Scrape or Drill and Fill methods. Overall, sprays and Cut and Paint treatments are unlikely to

affect tubers on vines. Spraying with a non-selective or selective herbicide is effective only on vines without aerial tubers. Spraying should be done between spring and autumn.

Regrowth of large underground tubers will require follow-up spraying 2-3 times a year for several years before they are destroyed. It is essential to spray regrowth before extensive foliage develops otherwise new underground tubers will form.



Madeira smothers everything.
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

For further information contact
Bushcare or Greenweb Units
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COUNCIL

