



SEPTEMBER 2008

***Ipomoea indica******Ipomoea cairica*****BLUE MORNING GLORY  
COASTAL MORNING GLORY**

A garden ornamental that has escaped to become a rampant weed.

**DESCRIPTION**

- ***Ipomoea indica***

Climbs to 10 m or more. Leaves grow up to 15 cm long. The flowers are usually purple-blue fading to pinkish-white. Reproduction is by rooting from rhizomes, stems and stem fragments. *I. indica* has also recently been found to set viable seeds in areas of the Sutherland Shire.

- ***Ipomoea cairica***

Climbs to 5 m. Leaves are 4-9 cm long and wide. Flowers are purple, pink or whitish-pink, 5-8 cm diameter. Seed capsules are 10 mm in diameter and mature over summer-autumn. Coastal Morning Glory reproduces by seed dispersed by water or garden refuse during removal.

**EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT**

Morning Glories are major environmental weeds in locations as varied as dry forests and wetlands, dune systems and coastal waterways, degraded landscape and limestone cliffs. It is persistent and smothers everything in its path. Growth is rapid at 4-6 m per season. Stems can be killed by frost but resprout from underground in spring.

**HABITAT**

*I. indica* prefers sunny positions in moist locations but will tolerate dry conditions once established. It will also thrive in habitats ranging from dune systems to freshwater wetlands. Infestations often begin in disturbed bushland margins and expands into the canopy. *I. cairica* occurs in coastal areas and wastelands, often near the sea.



Coastal Morning Glory.



Blue Morning Glory.

Source: Sutherland Shire Council

## ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION

Morning Glory originated in the tropical areas of the world especially the West Indies and tropical Asia. *Ipomoea indica* is present throughout Australia. *Ipomoea cairica* is currently located in NSW and Queensland. Both are occasionally available in markets and nurseries or exchanged between gardeners.

## DECLARATION

Morning Glory 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

- **Small infestations** can be manually removed. All stems in contact with soil must be removed and the roots dug out to ensure no regrowth occurs. Vines can be severed at the base and left to dry in the canopy. Check the site carefully for broken stem pieces. Monitor the area for regrowth over the next year.
- **Large infestations** can be treated using the Stem/Scrape or Cut and Paint methods. Thin vines can be difficult to paint or scrape. Pull them down or cut them at chest height, lay the lower sections on the ground and apply a herbicide spray to them.
- **Herbicides:** Plants can be sprayed with non-selective herbicides.
- **Disposal:** Plant material can be composted, however any seed material should be bagged and put in rubbish bins.



Coastal Morning Glory smothers a tree.  
Source: Sutherland Shire Council

For further information contact  
Bushcare or Greenweb Units  
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