

WEEDS OF THE SEASON

As part of Lismore Biodiversity News, each quarter we will feature three environmental weeds common around Lismore in gardens, on roadsides and riverbanks.

We will focus on weeds that are flowering or fruiting at the time so they are highly visible. With so many weeds spreading throughout the region, it's important to be on the lookout for new species and incursions into new areas. Far North Coast Weeds have detailed information and are the local control authority for noxious weeds. You can check the status of a plant here on the [Noxious Weed List](#).

Crofton Weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) is a perennial herb and groundcover preferring sunny conditions and fertile soil, e.g. pastures, riverbanks, bushland and railway cuttings. Since its escape from ornamental cultivation around 1900, it has become widespread. It can smother other vegetation and is toxic to horses.

Treatment methods are careful hand-pulling when soil is damp (hang plants up to dry) or spray with Brushkill® 15 g:100 litre water when actively growing, or spray with Glyphosate 1:100. Take care to avoid killing natives by using a directional spray nozzle and avoid spraying in windy conditions.



Spraying with a directional nozzle and spray pack.



Flowering Crofton weed.

Cat's claw creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) was introduced as a garden plant for its attractive yellow flower, and has since become a major weed of native forests and riparian areas in eastern Australia. With climbing woody stems that cling to tree trunks, it is able to grow high into the canopy and strangle mature trees, opening up the canopy for light-loving weeds. It forms a dense above-ground mat with underground tubers and produces abundant seeds that are dispersed by wind and water.

Recommended treatment for small vines is cutting and painting the stump or scraping the stem and painting, and for larger vines cutting the stump (as low as possible) and painting. Paint with Glyphosate 1:1.5 water, and add Metsulfuron (1.5g per 10 litre), or use Vigilant Gel.

For more information: <http://clarencelandcare.com.au/wp-content/Brochures/catsclawcreeper.pdf>

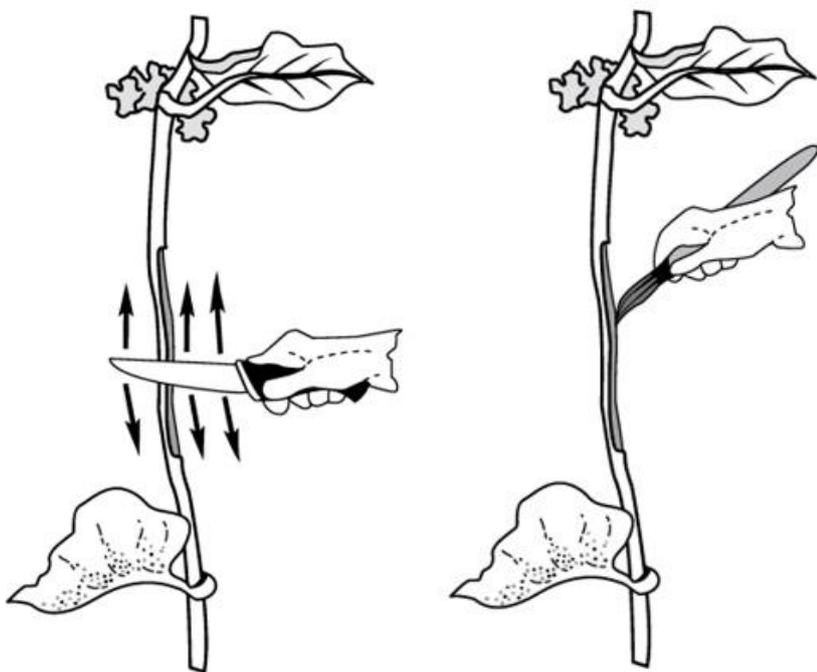


Diagram: Scraping and painting.

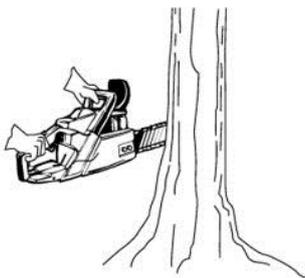




Above: Cat's claw creeper infestation.

Small-leaved Privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) is a strong-smelling and very common weed of rainforest areas and waterways. A large shrub or a small tree usually growing less than 3m tall, but occasionally reaching 4-5m in height, it reproduces by seed, root suckers, and re-sprouts after stems are cut or damaged. The seed is dispersed by fruit-eating birds and other animals.

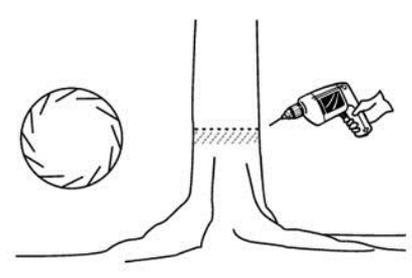
The recommended control method for small plants is cut, scape and paint the stump with Glyphosate (1:1.5), or for larger trees drill and inject with Glyphosate (1:2). Seedlings can be hand pulled or when they are prolific can be sprayed with Glyphosate (mixed 1:50 with water) and Metsulfuron methyl (mixed 1.5gm per 10 litre of water).



1. Cutting



2. Treating the stump



3. Drilling and injecting method



Above: Small-leaved and flowering small-leaved privet.