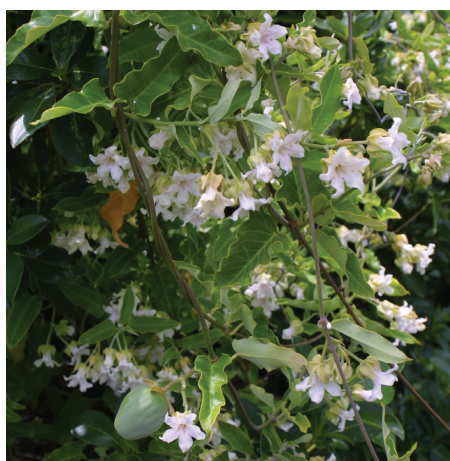


WEED FILE: MOTH PLANT

REVISED JUNE 2022



Araujia hortorum

DESCRIPTION

Originally from South America Moth plant is a fast-growing, perennial climbing vine with a milky sap that is poisonous and known to cause dermatitis and can sting skin and eyes.

Butterflies, moths, and bees are attracted to its fragrant flowers and can become trapped in them. Flowers can be seen December to May and are white, pinkish in bud with five petals and are around 20-25mm in diameter.

The large, fleshy seed pods contain thousands of small black seeds on white cottonwool like fluff. This is why Moth plants is also called Kapok vine. When the pods open the seeds can drift some distance on the wind.

Leaves are smooth and dark green on top and a downy greyish-green underneath.

It is listed on the National Pest Plant Accord

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION

Although found mainly in the northern North Island it is slowly spreading and can be found in Whanganui and Marlborough.

Found mainly around trees, hedges, cliffs, stony banks, and general unkempt area.

PHYSICAL CONTROL

Dig or pull out and dispose of the seed pods to green waste or landfill. The seeds can remain viable for many years.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

Cut Stump

To adequately control requires tracing back to the base stem

- Spray or paint the freshly cut stump with
 - o MSF600 – 1g per 1 litre water (this is the cheapest but slower acting), or
 - o GrassMate – 100ml/L
 - o A mix of 55ml Rainbow & Brown 2,4-D 720 Amine and 40ml Dicamba 500 SL per litre of water, or
- Apply 2-4mm thick layer of Cut'n'Paste MetGel or Cut'n'Paste Picloram Gel to the freshly cut stump.

Spray

Cut and pull vines away from desirable natives or trees before spraying. It is likely you will need 2-3 treatments a year until under control.

- **MSF600** - 5g per 10L of water and add 10ml **Spraywetter** per 10L. MSF600 is low cost but is not grass friendly and has a slow kill time.
- **GrassMate** – 120ml/10L water plus 10ml **Spraywetter** per 10L
- A mix of 33ml **Rainbow & Brown 2,4-D 720 Amine** and 25ml **Dicamba 500 SL** per 10L of water plus 10ml **Spraywetter** per 10L
- **Glyphosate 540** - 133ml/10L + **MSF600 1.5G/10L** plus 10ml **Spraywetter** per 10L water.