



The Western Cape bridal creeper in full growth. Centre: The Western Cape form's flower. Right: The large waxy leaves of the Western Cape form.

Bridal creeper has been declared a Weed of National Significance

For further information please visit our website

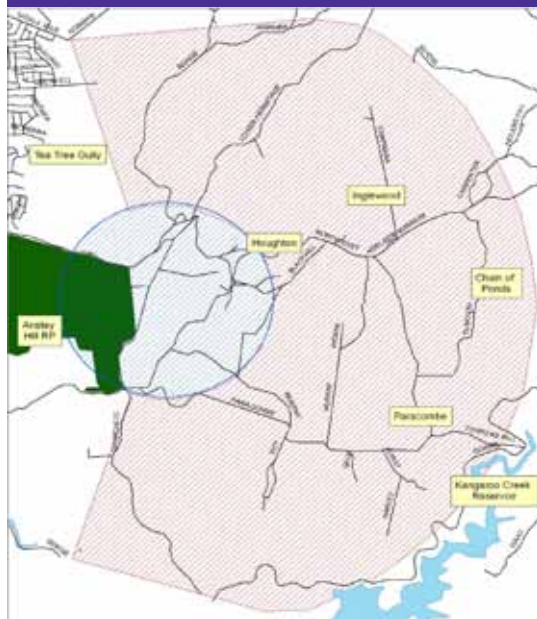
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Western Cape bridal creeper found in Tea Tree Gully and Houghton area

Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) is a Weed of National Significance. It is an introduced vine which invades and smothers native vegetation.

The Western Cape form of bridal creeper is larger and more vigorous than the common form. Both forms pose a significant threat to the biodiversity of the Adelaide hills.

Potential Western Cape infestations



Known Western Cape infestations
Potential Western Cape infestations

Western Cape can re-infest areas where common bridal creeper has been controlled, undoing years of effective weed management. It is resistant to the biological-control rust-fungus used against the common form.

The Western Cape form of bridal creeper was first found growing in Anstey Hill Recreation Park in 2006.

In 2008 another infestation was discovered in the Houghton area (see map). The circle on the map indicates the plant's known distribution in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges. There is concern that the plant has spread beyond its currently known boundaries. The larger arc shows the area that could contain further infestations and where the weed may be spread by birds.

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges has an active program to find and destroy the Western Cape form to prevent it from establishing in the region. **We seek your support in locating it.**

If you suspect that the Western Cape form of bridal creeper is growing on your property please contact your nearest Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges office.





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Comparing the two forms

Above ground – leaves and stems

Compared to the common form, the Western Cape bridal creeper has:

- larger and flatter leaves
- duller and dark green leaves
- leaves that feel more leathery
- more angular stems
- robust growth in climbing habit.

But beware – when growing in ideal conditions, the common bridal creeper may resemble the Western Cape form in leaf colour and size, therefore can easily be mistaken for the Western Cape form.

Below ground – tubers and roots

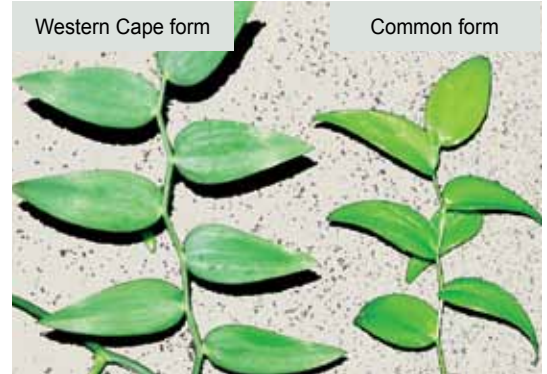
The Western Cape bridal creeper’s root mass is considerably larger than the common form and it has thick finger like tubers that:

- reach between 40 and 90 mm
- end in a fine root
- grow closer to the soil surface, lying parallel to the ground and form a vertical column that is packed in a rosette around the rhizome (see the diagram below).

Locating and identifying Western Cape bridal creeper

You will often find the Western Cape bridal creeper under native cherry (*Exopcarpus sp.*), growing up fence lines and along watercourses and dams.

The most reliable way to confirm that the plant is actually the Western Cape form is to dig up its tubers. Follow the stem to the ground and scratch away the soil, The Western Cape’s tubers are large, close to the surface, grow horizontally in the soil and are arranged in a rosette around the rhizome.



A comparison of the leaves and stems of the two forms of bridal creeper.



Below ground comparison.



Western Cape bridal creeper’s root mass. Its tubers reach between 40 and 90 mm.

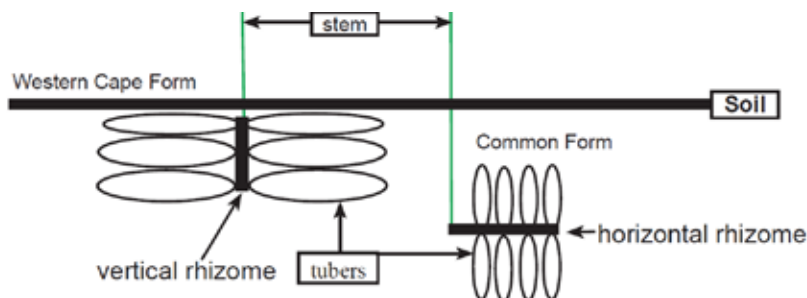


Diagram showing difference in rhizome growth habits of Western Cape and common bridal creeper

