

# German ivy

*Delairea odorata*

## Family

Asteraceae (daisy)

## Also known as

African ivy, climbing groundsel, *Senecio mikanioides*

## Where is it originally from?

South Africa

## What does it look like?

Scrambling or climbing perennial vine (<3-5 m) with thin, weak green stems. Thin, soft, glossy, hairless leaves are ivy-shaped and clammy to touch. Dense clusters of yellow, ragwort-like flowers (7 mm diameter, May-Oct) are followed by fluffy seeds.

## Are there any similar species?

Cape ivy (*Senecio angulatus*) is similar but its leaves are more succulent. Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is also similar.

## Why is it weedy?

Fast growing and dense smothering habit. Distributes many wind-blown seeds long distances. Prefers open, damp sites but partially shade and drought-tolerant, and will grow in most soil types throughout New Zealand.

## How does it spread?

Seeds spread by wind and in dumped vegetation and soil movement. Common sources are gardens, waste places, roadsides and bush edges.

## What damage does it do?

Smothers small trees and lower vegetation, preventing the seedlings of native species from establishing. Often first exotic vine to appear on bush edge and subsequently supports more aggressive or taller vine species (eg. Lonicera, Ipomoea) as they invade.

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Lowland forest and stream edges (especially in coastal areas), inshore islands and low growing habitats.

## What can I do to get rid of it?

Easiest controlled at flowering, when highly visible and before seed is produced.

1. Hand pull small plants, or dig out roots (all year round). Leave on site to rot down.
2. Stump swab (all year round): glyphosate (100ml/L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L). Leave on site to rot down.
3. Cut stems below waist height, spray below this point (spring-summer to actively growing plants): glyphosate (10ml/L (knapsack) or 2L/100L (spraygun)) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g/10L (knapsack) or 20g/100L (spraygun)) or a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (60ml/10L) or a product containing 200g 2,4-D+100g dicamba/L (12ml/L) or dicamba 50g/L (24ml/L) or amitrole (150ml/15L (knapsack) or 2L/100L (spraygun)). Add penetrant to all mixes.

## What can I do to stop it coming back?

Pulled roots and vines may be left to rot down on site.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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