

Italian jasmine

Jasminum humile

Family

Oleaceae (olive)

What does it look like?

Evergreen, erect or sub-erect (occasionally scrambling), almost hairless, non-woody shrub (<2.5 m tall) with strongly angled stems. Leaves are arranged alternately up the stems, divided into 3-7 stalkless leaflets and a terminal leaflet (<5 x 2 cm). Clusters of 3-10 tubular yellow flowers (15-20 mm long) appear from July to April, followed by glossy black berries (6-8 mm diameter) with a small amount of black pulp.

Are there any similar species?

Jasminum mesnyi, primrose jasmine (*J. primulinum*), and *J. nudiflorum*.

Why is it weedy?

Moderate to fast growth rate, scrambling habit, and stems that take root when they make contact with soil allows it to form dense bushes. Tolerates wind, salt, differing soil types, and damage. It is extremely hard to kill.

How does it spread?

Birds spread the seed, while stem fragments are spread by dumping of garden waste.

What damage does it do?

Competes for space and nutrients, scrambles over shrubs and groundcovers, and prevents native species establishing.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Open forest and margins, coastline, shrublands, limestone hills, and barren sites.

What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Stump swab (all year round): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/L). Dispose of cut stems at refuse transfer station or burn.
2. Spray (summer): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/10L + penetrant (knapsack) or 40g/100 L + penetrant (handgun)).

What can I do to stop it coming back?

Stumps resprout and cut stems take root. Not shade-tolerant so plant bared sites to minimise regrowth where possible.



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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