

# Jasmine

## *Jasminum polyanthum*

### Family

Oleaceae (olive)

### Where is it originally from?

West China

### What does it look like?

Perennial, evergreen, climbing, almost hairless, non-woody vine with very long, round, tough, stems that root at nodes. Smooth edged leaves are arranged in opposite pairs on stems, and are divided along the midvein into usually 7 leaflets with the terminal leaflet (<7 x 2.5 cm) the largest. Clustered, tube-like white flowers that are pink when in bud and very fragrant (Jan-Dec), are very rarely followed by glossy black berries (5-8 mm diameter).

### Are there any similar species?

*Jasminum azoricum*, *J. officinale*, *Pandorea pandorana*, and *Trachelospermum jasminoides* are all similar.

### Why is it weedy?

Grows rapidly over forest floor, and into the subcanopy and canopy, forms dense, long-lived masses, stems layer profusely and runners spread long distances over tough sites under buildings, rocks, and so on. Highly shade-tolerant, can flower under full canopy, and tolerates drought, damp, wind, salt, differing soil types, and damage. Extremely hard to kill. It is spread mainly by fragments dumped into the edges of natural areas.

### How does it spread?

Birds readily spread seed where it is produced. Most spread is from fragments dumped in greenwaste, and common sources are gardens, roadsides, vacant land, cemeteries, and bush tracks.

### What damage does it do?

Smothers and kills all plants from ground level to medium to highly canopy, and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. Ingress into established forest is rapid via ground or canopy.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Open and intact forest and forest margins, coastline, cliffs, shrublands, and streamsides. Can invade cold-climate forest if there is dense canopy cover.

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

1. Stump swab (all year round): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/L) or a product containing 200g/litre 2,4-D plus 100g/litre dicamba (200ml/L) or dicamba 50g/L (400ml/L). Add penetrant to all mixes. Dispose of all cut stems at a refuse transfer station, or burn or bury deeply.
2. Spray (regrowth): glyphosate (150ml/15L + penetrant (knapsack) or 1L/100L + penetrant (spraygun)) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/10L + penetrant (knapsack) or 40g/100L + penetrant (spraygun)) or a product containing 200g 2,4-D+100g dicamba/L (120ml/L) or dicamba 50g/L (24ml/L).

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

Stumps resprout very quickly, cut stems root at nodes. Many plants appear not to produce seed, however once established jasmine is hard to kill and dispose of. Always dry and burn or deeply bury all cut material.



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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