

Cat's claw creeper is a woody vine that can completely smother native vegetation, especially along rivers, killing trees and understory plants. The large climbing stems can also reach to the top of the forest canopy where, through a combination of weight and shading, they can cause the eventual death of the largest canopy trees.

Look for Cat's Claw Creeper vine on your property every year, especially during spring when it is flowering



How to identify it



Leaves: opposite, in pairs and a third 'leaflet' is modified into a small three-clawed tendril.



Flowers: bright, trumpet-shaped yellow flowers, obvious in spring, 4-10cm long.



Seed pods: brown, elongated, flattened strap-like pod with many winged, viable seeds in each that can be carried long distances by wind and water.



Stems: become woody vines that cover and strangle whole trees.
Root: vigorous tubers. Vine can take root at the leaf joints.

How to kill it



Cut the stem about 20-30cm above the ground with saw, loppers or chainsaw.
Cut again 30cm above to create a clear separation. Everything above the cut stem will die.



Scrape all the way down one side of the stem with a sharp knife, secateurs or loppers.



Paint the scrape and cut stump with herbicide.
Mix glyphosate 1:1.5 with water.
Add 1g of metsulfuron methyl per litre.



Remember to monitor and spot spray regrowth or new seedlings with 100ml glyphosate with 1.5 g metsulfuron methyl and 20 ml surfactant in 10L water.
Sit back and admire your work.
The tree will thank you for it!

Dear Landholder,

Tweed Landcare is currently working with landholders to control Cat's Claw Creeper along the upper reaches of the Tweed River. Removing Cat's Claw Creeper will mean healthier trees and riparian vegetation, help prevent erosion and keep our river beautiful. Together we can control this weed.

This terrible weed is one of the worst in the Tweed as it smothers large trees until they die and collapse under the weight. Please help us and your neighbours downstream by controlling this weed on your property. This leaflet will show you in simple steps how you can kill Cat's Claw Creeper.

Please call us on 6670 2199 if you need help or advice.



"We have seen great benefits from removing cat's claw creeper from our riverbank. Trees are healthier and helping to stabilise the bank rather than being at risk of toppling into the river."

Lyndall Tomsett, Oxley River landholder