

Wild Ginger

Hedychium gardnerianum and *Hedychium flavescens*



Kahili ginger and seed heads

Description

Two species:

Kahili ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*) and yellow ginger (*Hedychium flavescens*).

Roots:

Both species have large bulbous roots that can form a dense layer or mound.

Stems and leaves:

Both have stems up to 2m with large shiny leaves.

Flowers:

Kahili ginger flower clusters are yellow with red stamens and flower in summer. Yellow ginger flower clusters are creamy yellow and flower in late autumn.

Fruit:

Kahili ginger – a capsule opens to reveal an orange inside with bright berries. Yellow ginger does not produce seed.

How does it spread?

Seeds are spread by birds.

Pieces of wild ginger roots can spread in illegally dumped garden rubbish.

Why is it a problem?

Wild ginger grows to form extensive dense stands which exclude other vegetation.

It grows in the shade in native forest and prevents new seedlings growing.

Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Wild ginger is a Sustained Control Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any wild ginger on their properties.

How do I get rid of it?

Spraying:

- All year round use the cut and paste method - cut stems at base and immediately apply metsulfuron gel ('met gel') to the cut surface.
- Dig or pull out small plants, ensuring all tubers are intact. Do not compost. Dry out and burn or dispose of at transfer station.
- Large areas can be sprayed from late spring to early autumn – use metsulfuron and ensure thorough coverage.

Spraying is best done when growth is vigorous in late spring, summer and autumn.

Thorough spray coverage is important and repeat applications may be necessary. Tubers can sometimes re-sprout after spraying up to three years later.

Spray with Metsulfuron-methyl (e.g. Escort, Meturon, Matrix).

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 5g per 10L of water.

With handgun use 25g per 100L of water.

Always add penetrant (e.g. Organosilicone or Pulse) to the spray mix. Use 10ml for every 10L water.

CAUTION:

When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER:

Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.



Kahili ginger



Yellow ginger

For more information

Contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Biosecurity Officer

E www.boprc.govt.nz **P** 0800 884 880



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