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## SGLN Weed Fact Sheet

# Cape Ivy

### FAST FACT:

There are no Australian plants that look like Cape Ivy, however it is similar to English Ivy, another environmental weed! Cape Ivy is sometimes called Flowering Ivy.

### have I got Cape Ivy at my place?

*Delairea odorata* or Cape Ivy is a perennial plant that grows as a ground cover or climber. Leaves are bright green, fleshy and shiny, ivy-shaped with 5-7 lobes. Leaves are arranged singly on alternate sides of the stem and are variable in size. Flowers are conspicuous clusters of small, unpleasantly scented yellow, daisy-like flower heads. Cape Ivy flowers from July to September.

### why should I worry about it?

A perennial climber with stems that reach up to 10m, Cape Ivy forms a thick mat smothering out native plants. Used as a ground cover and on fences, it quickly climbs up trees and overtakes the garden and bush. It spreads by climbing over other plants and by seeds which are spread by birds, wind, water, soil and dumped garden waste. Plant fragments will grow into new plants. Not widely available in nurseries but common at markets. Cape Ivy is poisonous to mammals, spiders and aquatic critters.

### how can I deal with it?

Remove small plants first and then target outer edges of larger infestations before seed is set. Fine roots form at nodes along the stems. During removal these easily break off, remaining in the ground to develop new plants. Start with vines growing up trees to prevent flowering and further spread by seed. Cut climbing stems with secateurs and leave to die in shrubs or trees. Immediately paint with a suitable herbicide any cut stump that is to be left in the soil. For large infestations spray foliage with herbicide, but avoid spraying any native vegetation that the plant is climbing through. If using herbicide, paint/spray when plant is actively growing from June to September. Lontrel is the effective registered chemical. Disposal: Seal in strong bags and take to the tip. Alternatively, if removal from site is difficult, ensure stems are placed off the ground (on branches or a platform) to dry out and decompose. Maintenance: Monitor sites regularly for regrowth or new seedlings.

### where can I get further help?

South Gippsland Landcare Network can arrange a site visit by our Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer to discuss weeds and control. Phone 03 5682 1934 or 0428 317 928. SGLN weeds website is at [www.southgippslandweeds.com.au](http://www.southgippslandweeds.com.au). This website has plenty of great information on weed identification and control. You can also contact the Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer through the web page.

### South Gippsland Landcare Network

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is made up of 21 Landcare groups. Landcare encourages land stewardship and aims to improve the long term productivity and sustainability of our land.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare in South Gippsland you can contact us on 5662 5759 or email us on [sgln@landcare.net](mailto:sgln@landcare.net)

The South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce meets to discuss weed control policy and strategies.

Contact the Taskforce through the SGLN.

