

Blue passionflower

Passiflora caerulea

Detect this pest plant before it becomes a problem

Why it's a problem:

Blue passionflower is a smothering plant that disperses effectively.

- It grows quickly, forming large masses in tree canopies.
- It spreads via birds and other animals eating its fruit.
- It easily smothers native plants, prevents seedling establishment and covers the canopy, reducing light penetration.
- It can grow from layering (when stems touch the ground and throw new roots). If a section of the stem is cut and left on the ground, the section of stem can also throw new roots and establish a new plant.

Appearance:

- A vigorous evergreen, high-climbing vine.
- Long stems that are hairless and have spiralling tendrils.
- Leaves are very thin and five-lobed almost to the base, with each lobe 3-8cm long and narrow.
- Hanging whitish-purple flowers (6-9cm diameter) with purple filaments are produced from December to April.
- Hanging, round fruit (3-5cm diameter) that ripens from green to yellow/orange, has small amounts of inedible pulp and contains silver-brown seeds (4mm long).

Location:

Habitat consists of disturbed and open forest, light wells and margins of intact bush, stream sides, coastline and cliffs.

Get more information:

- [Weedbusters](#) provides descriptions and images to help with pest identification.
- [Agpest](#) is an identification tool for pests, biology, impact and management for farmers and agricultural professionals.
- [iNaturalist](#) is a sharing tool that contributes to biodiversity science for avid nature observers.
- Manaaki Whenua – [Landcare Research](#) provides information on weeds and biocontrol
- [Ministry for Primary Industries](#) (MPI) for information on protecting New Zealand from biological risk.
- Practice [biosecurity hygiene](#) to stop the spreading of pests.

