

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

Climbing spindleberry

Celastrus orbiculatus

How do I identify climbing spindleberry?

Climbing vine that can grow up to **12 metres** high

Leaves: Bright green, **oval**, **serrated**. Leaves may drop in colder months

Flowers: Small and pale green

Fruits: Clusters of **bright red** or orange berries which contain seeds which are mainly spread by birds

Stems: Brown, woody, **twisting canes** that can wrap around young trees and strangle them

Roots: Taproots

Where found: Gardens, forest margins and waste areas

What's the problem?

- Climbing spindleberry is a fast-growing vine that grows into the tree canopy and forms large masses that rapidly smother and replace vegetation
- Mainly invades disturbed or low-canopy forest and forest margins

What do I do?

- If you suspect you have climbing spindleberry or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is climbing spindleberry, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

Fact:

This plant can virtually cut small trees in half by wrapping its vines around them and squeezing

