

Climbing spindleberry

Celastrus orbiculatus

Detect this pest plant before it becomes a problem

Why it's a problem:

Climbing spindleberry is a very invasive vine. Once established, it is difficult to control.

- It spreads by stem fragments and by seed.
- It seeds prolifically and is shade tolerant, allowing it to establish and spread quickly.
- It forms dense colonies that compete with other plant species for soil, moisture, nutrients and light.
- It threatens indigenous biodiversity as its density can affect the regeneration of indigenous flora, strangle small trees, and suppress desirable groundcovers.

Appearance:

- A perennial, twining climber with woody stems that can grow up to 12m high.
- Leaves are alternate, up to 10cm long and finely serrated.
- Young twigs are green and can produce long, sharp spines.
- Small, pale green flowers are followed by yellow and red berries, which are mainly spread by birds. This makes it difficult to control its spread.
- Stems can take root when they contact the ground.
- It is most visible in Autumn when shedding its deciduous leaves

Location:

It can compete with and replace indigenous plants in disturbed or low forest, and on forest and riparian margins.

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.

