

30 March 2010

Report all Madeira vine sightings

Shoalhaven City Council is seeking the assistance of all landowners and community associations to locate outbreaks of an extremely aggressive climbing weed called Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), also known as Lambs Tails.

Madeira vine grows rapidly and can completely smother and kill large areas of native vegetation. The vine can climb trees up to 30 metres, causing them to collapse and die from the weight and lack of sunlight. This weed can spread from one property to another, especially via watercourses, spreading along backyard fences and by dumping of garden waste.

Council's Parks staff can assist any private landowner who has this weed on their property. Staff will undertake a first treatment, and advise and show landowners how this weed can be controlled. This will include both chemical and hand removal methods.

Madeira vine has thick fleshy, heart shaped leaves and numerous warty tubers growing from the climbing stems. It is most visible in autumn, when it's draping, creamy flower spikes cover the whole plant.

Large infestations of this devastating weed have already been identified in Berry, Kangaroo Valley, Bomaderry and Milton. There are also numerous known smaller patches spread throughout the city.

Funding from the NSW Government Environmental Trust has allowed Council and Shoalhaven Landcare to treat 300 sites in the city over the past five years.

If you are aware of this weed growing on public or private land, please contact Council's Parks section on (02) 4429 3291 or 0431 133 000.

Caption: Madeira vine showing the warty aerial tubers that drop from the plant and re-shoot, causing the weed to spread. It can pose a significant environmental threat if left untreated.

CONTACT: Acting Director City Services and Operations Cliff Harris (02) 4429 3298