



Bridal Creeper Rust Water Solution

Bridal Creeper is a Declared Pest and Weed of National Significance. Bridal Creeper, *Asparagus asparagoides*, has the capacity to invade a large area of Australia including farms, urban areas, waterways, bushland reserves and forests. Tubers provide nutrients for very rapid stem growth at the beginning of the season, even before the winter rains, where the creeper can smother the surrounding vegetation.

Making Rust water

1. Source rust infected bridal creeper foliage. Roadsides and creek lines are good places to look, also check under trees and bushes where birds may have dropped seeds.
2. Check that spores are present using sticky tape technique, where the spores come off on the tape.
3. In a bucket mix a large bundle of rust infected foliage with water and shake vigorously to release spores.
4. Pour rust water through a strainer to remove debris.
5. Dispense into spray unit or applicator bottle. You can use a watering can if your spray bottle clogs up.
6. Spray late in the day, but not when rain is expected. Repeat application during August and September.

Useful tips

- Bridal Creeper produces flowers, and fruit, in the second or third year. This gives you time to manage the plant prior to fruiting.
- Most fruit are produced on vertical climbing stems. These are easy to cut off reducing the seed set. Do this early in the season.
- Seed is only viable in the soil for 2-3 years. This is useful to know for follow up treatment.
- Tubers remain viable and will regrow each year. Most of the plant biomass is underground.
- If the plant is small you may be able to get the whole root ball out, taking care to get all the tubers, with a spade.
- Fire will kill tubers you have dug up.
- Rust spray will compromise the plant growth and reduce viability, this will be most notable in the following year. It will not kill the plant immediately.