Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc.

Community Newsletter No 7

August 2023

Next General Meeting

Sunday 20th August 2023

3pm at the Araluen Federal Hall.

New members always welcome and encouraged.

Araluen Creek Restoration Project 2021-2023 – Celebration and project video launch

Over the last two years since 2021 Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council has assisted the Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group with the~~ir~~ Araluen Creek Restoration Project 2021-2023. It has been a very big project for Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group and the challenges were ongoing: Covid, nineteen extraordinary rainfall events, landslips causing delays for delivery of materials and all of this managed by a voluntary committee. Yet it is done.

The chunky part of the project was large scale erosion control works along the creek.

However, the project also focused on other necessary elements to look after Araluen Creek, such as building community awareness, riparian health and waterwatch monitoring, re-vegetation, weed control and measures to keep stock out of the creek by fencing and providing alternative water sources.

In addition, we have looked at small scale erosion control measures that landholders can put in place. In June 2023, Soil Conservation Services completed the last big erosion control works, May 2023 saw another two planting days and the completion of filming for the project video. Meanwhile a website is being created to tell the project story.

To mark the end of the project Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group in partnership with Upper Shoalhaven Landcare are hosting a celebratory afternoon tea to thank everyone who has assisted with the project, all the volunteers, participants and presenters of workshops as well as anyone interested in learning more about the project. The afternoon will also feature the premiere of the project video.

All welcome, please let us know if you can attend. RSVP to uppershoalhaven.chair@gmail.com

What: Celebrate the Araluen Creek Restoration Project 2021-2023

plus watch the premiere of the project video by local award-winning filmmaker Clare Young

Where: Federal Hall, 5989 Araluen Rd, Araluen

When: 2.00pm, Saturday 9 September 2023

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Interested? Then sign up. RSVP to: uppershoalhaven.chair@gmail.com or contact Larry on 0419 266 110.

UDCLG Executive Contacts

President: Tony Peters
E: antipeters@gmail.com
Secretary: Penny Hayman
E: phhayman@gmail.com
Treasurer: Robyn Clubb
E: clubbr@yahoo.com
Vice President: Helen Waddell

Membership

Upper Deua Catchment Landcare Group Inc membership is $2 annually or $5 for 3 years. Contact Treasurer, Robyn Clubb to join or check your status. E: clubbr@yahoo.com

Note: For insurance compliance purposes all volunteers participating in planting days and other activities are required to be a financial member of the UDC Landcare Group.

UDCLG Newsletter

Newsletter is prepared and compiled by Cath Harrison with contributions from the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare Council.

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Madeira Vine –

Suffocating the Native Canopy in Araluen

The UDCLG is extremely concerned with the firm hold that Madiera Vine is gaining in the Valley. This invasive species is literally suffocating the native canopy throughout the Araluen Valley.

Madeira Vine is on the groups hit list of invasive species and we are working towards a program that engages landholders and the community to manage and destroy as much of this vine as we possibly can.

Further information of the group's plan will be released as soon as possible.

Madeira Vine invasion in the upper reaches of the Valley. Majors Creek Mountain Road. Photo credit: Tony Hayman

Madeira vine (Anredera cordifolia) Also known as: lamb's tails. Madeira vine is an invasive climbing vine with fleshy heart-shaped leaves and aerial tubers. It smothers other vegetation including the canopy of tall trees.

How does this weed affect you?

Madeira vine grows very quickly and it can smother and kill plants from ground covers to tall trees causing branches and trees to fall due to the weight of the aerial tubers. It reduces food and habitat for native animals and it invades crops and causes ill health if eaten by livestock. **Madeira vine is one of the invasive vines listed as a Key Threatening Process in NSW.**

Livestock Health

Eating madeira vine leaves can cause temporary diarrhea in pigs and sheep. The effects on other livestock are not well researched. Sudden deaths have been reported, but not proven to be the result of madeira poisoning.

What does it look like?

Madeira vine is a perennial twining vine. It flowers in late summer and autumn.

Leaves are: bright green,fleshy,heart-shaped, 2–15 cm long and 2–10 cm wide, hairless and sometimes glossy on stalks 5–15 mm long, alternate along the stem.

Flowers are: white or cream,star-shaped with 5 petals up to 6 mm long, fragrant clustered on drooping flower spikes 6–30 cm long growing from the upper leaf axils.

Stems:are up to 20 m long, are green or red green when young and brown when older have aerial tubers.

Aerial tubers are:light-brown or green, potato-like and warty 10–30 mm long at the nodes.

Roots: The roots also have tubers and these can be up to 20 cm in diameter.

Where is it found?

Madeira vine mostly grows in coastal areas of NSW with summer rainfall. However, it is spreading into dryer inland areas including the North West and Central West of NSW. It is native to South America.

What type of environment does it grow in?

Madeira vine grows in sub-tropical and warm temperate areas. It grows best in full sun or partial shade but is also tolerant of dense shade. It often establishes on the margins of rainforests and on the edges of waterways. It is partly salt-tolerant and can grow over mangroves.

How does it spread?

By plant parts

Madeira vine can grow from tubers, stems or leaves. Mature plants produce thousands of tubers both along the stems and underground. There can be up to 1500 fallen aerial tubers per square meter under dense infestations. Small tubers fall to the ground as the vines mature and they can remain viable for many years, making control very difficult. Plant parts are spread by water and by people dumping garden waste.

By seeds

Madeira vine rarely produces seeds. The seeds could be spread by birds, water and movement of soil.

Control

Successful weed control relies on follow-up after the initial efforts. This means looking for and killing regrowth or new plants. Using a combination of control methods is usually more successful.

To manage madeira vine: treat isolated plants or sparse populations in areas you want to protect first, check for and treat regrowth from tubers and stems. Avoid damage to native vegetation and other desirable plants and encourage the recovery of native vegetation to compete with the weed.

Prevention

Remove any madeira vine in gardens and dispose of all plant parts appropriately.

Disposal

Madeira vine can be composted. Choose compost sites in areas that can easily be inspected and sprayed if needed. Sites should be in flood free areas and not in areas where the plant parts could be easily disturbed or moved. Contact your local council for further advice on disposal.

Physical removal

By hand

Dig up tubers and collect all plant parts for smaller or immature infestation sites. Dispose of tubers, leaves and stems, as they will regrow when in contact with the soil or if they are exposed to any sunlight.

If there is stress on the host plants, cut and pull the madeira vines from the canopy. When pulling the vines aerial tubers easily fall off the stems. Lay tarps or cloths on the ground to collect the aerial tubers to prevent the infestation from spreading. Cut vines can survive in the tree canopy and continue to drop tubers for up to two years. It is important to remove as much plant material as possible.

Biological control

The leaf-feeding beetle Plectonycha correntina has been released in NSW and Queensland. The beetle has established and caused significant damage to madeira vine at many of the release sites. Both the adult beetles and the larvae feed on the leaves. Leaf-feeding reduces the plant's ability to photosynthesise and depletes the energy stores in the tubers. Only use the beetles in flood-free and frost-free areas. To allow the beetles to establish, do not use other control methods on the release sites. For more information about biological control for madeira vine contact your local council weeds officer.

Chemical control

Using chemicals in warmer months will give the best results. Though, a herbicide application during late winter may allow easier access and better control during the following spring and summer months.

Spot spraying

Spraying is suitable for seedlings and for plants growing along the ground, over structures or over other non-desirable plants. Apply herbicide to all foliage to the point of visible wetness.

If plants do not have tubers and are climbing on desirable plants, pull them off gently and spray them on the ground. Foliar spraying may be used after the stems have been treated using scrape and paint techniques. It can also be used as an initial treatment, followed by scrape and painting of remaining living stems.

Follow up by spraying sprouting tubers when they have between 2 and 8 leaves.

Splatter gun

Splatter guns can be used for dense infestations of madeira vine that are difficult to reach. The specialised nozzle produces large droplets. This allows plants up to 10 m away to be sprayed with limited chance of spray drift. Spray small amounts of concentrated herbicide on the weed, taking care not to spray the leaves of native or other desirable plants. It is not necessary to cover all of the foliage.

Stem scraping

This method is suitable for vines of any size and for those with aerial tubers. It is the safest management option in sensitive environments. It is labour intensive, as every vine stem has to be treated individually.

Scrape sections of the vine down to the white fibrous layer and paint the exposed area with concentrated herbicide within 15 seconds.

Repeat the process as high up the stem as possible. If possible, scrape both sides of the stem. Do not ringbark the stem as this will prevent the herbicide spreading through the plant.

Remove and collect tubers along the stem near where they are to be scraped as they can easily fall off when the vines are being treated.

Cut stump method

Use this method for young vines without aerial tubers. It should only be used on vines with aerial tubers if it is possible to follow up the initial control by treating all of the sprouting tubers that fall to the ground. Tubers may continue to sprout for several years.

Cut stems and apply herbicide to the part of the vine that is attached to the ground and the vines remaining above within 15 seconds of cutting.

For technical advice and assistance with identification please contact your local council weeds officer.

For further information call the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline on 1800 680 244 or send an email to weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au

For further weed control information go to https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds