

Still Creek Landcare



Madeira Vine – Watchout!

by Jutta Hamilton

Whilst on a bush walk in a fairly pristine region of the Still Creek catchment, members of the Still Creek Landcare Group stumbled across a small infestation of Madeira Vine - *Anredera cordifolia*, a seriously invasive weedy vine. Madeira vine is a very fast growing weed, capable of destroying vast areas of vegetation by just smothering it. It has been declared as noxious weed.

At its worst, Madeira vine produces thousands of small light brown or green potato-like tubers which fall to the ground and sprout. It is dispersed by floodwaters and garden rubbish dumping. Some properties “inherited” tubers with soils and fill brought in from outside the district.

Tubers can stay viable for up to 10 years and sprout from quite deep underneath the soil surface. Depending on the size of the plant and its situation, control of this plant can be difficult. Success requires diligence and patience as well as follow-up visits and repeated treatments. Failure to control Madeira Vine will result in the death of mature native trees and a serious loss of habitat.

Although the infestation we found was small, the group of 7 volunteers, landowners and family friends spent 3 hours, removing the vine tangles from the vegetation, collecting all fallen tubers on a tarp on the ground and pulling out new little sprouting plants around the site. We collected and removed 2 large chaff bags full of tubers and vine. Our Landcare group will follow up with regular visits to the site to ensure it doesn't spread further into the catchment.

The following link will give you more information and show you how to chemically and mechanically remove this weed.

www.bellingerlandcare.org.au/documents/Madeiravine_000.pdf

Contact us: StillCreekLandcare@iinet.net.au, ph: 9653 2056. Look us up on Facebook or at StillCreekLandcare.com.au.