Formosa lily

Lilium formosanum

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Family
Liliaceae (lily)

Also known as
Taiwanese lily, Taiwan lily, Formosa lily, Trumpet lily, St Joseph's lily

Where is it originally from?
Taiwan

What does it look like?
Upright herbaceous plant with perennial underground bulbs producing annual shoots (<1-2m tall). Erect unbranched stems are mostly smooth and dark green in colour, but can be purplish-brown towards the base. Alternately arranged stalkless, hairless leaves (7.5-20 cm long and 5-10 mm wide) with smooth edges are elongated or linear in shape and generally become smaller towards the top of the stems. Scented, funnel-shaped flowers (12-20 cm long) have six large white 'petals' flushed with mauve or reddish-purple on the outside, and which develop into cylindrical seed capsules (5-9 cm long and 1-2 cm wide) containing winged seeds.

Photo: Trevor James

Why is it weedy?
Spreads easily, hardy.

How does it spread?
Wind spread seeds and also vegetatively by underground bulbs.

What damage does it do?
Competes with native plants in specific ecosystems such as sand dunes.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?
Disturbed areas, road sides, sand dunes.

What can I do to get rid of it?
1. Physical removal: Dig or pull-out small infestations. Dispose of all plant material at a landfill or refuse transfer station. Ensure no plant material is left on site.
2. Foliar spray - Apply herbicide using a hand held sprayer/knapsack. Apply a mix of Glyphosate (360 g/L active ingredient) herbicide at 15ml/L + metsulfuron herbicide (600g/kg active ingredient) at 0.4g/L + an organo silicone penetrant at recommended label rate, and thoroughly wet all parts of plant.
CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and directions for the purchase, use and storage of the product, are followed and adhered to.

Photo: Trevor James

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