

Bomarea

Bomarea multiflora

Family

Alstroemeriaceae (alstroemeria)

Also known as

Synonym of: *Bomarea caldasii*, *Alstroemeria multiflora*

Where is it originally from?

South America

What does it look like?

Multi-stemmed, scrambling, perennial vine that twines around any available support and may die back over winter in frost-prone localities. Stems arise from short underground rhizomes that bear numerous tubers. Leaves are long and pointed, with parallel veins. Tubular flowers range from red to orange or gold on the outside and yellow inside with dark spots, and hang in clusters of 15-20 flowers from summer to winter. Numerous fleshy, round, bright orange fruit develop in a capsule (2 cm diameter) from May to August.

Are there any similar species?

Alstroemeria aurantiaca is an erect perennial with very similar flowers, leaves and roots to bomarea, but it only reaches 1 m in height. *A. pulchella* is a herb that only reaches 60 cm in height.

Why is it weedy?

Fast-growing scrambling vine that forms large masses that can smother and kill supporting trees. Shade tolerant, and invades and threatens forest and shrubland. Develops a thicket of stems from a dense mass of roots, rhizomes and tubers. Hard to kill.

How does it spread?

Sprouts (suckers) from the spreading rhizomes and seed is spread by birds.

What damage does it do?

Smothers and kills supporting trees, and prevent the growth of native seedlings and understorey plants by blocking their light. Seedlings are capable of growing in the forest interior and will creep along the ground, strangling saplings and smothering low-growing species.

Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Forest edges, forest remnants, shrublands, areas along rivers and lakes, urban areas.

What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Dig out (all year round): Cut the stems and dig out the root system. Ensure removal of all rhizome fragments and flowers or seed pods. Wrap seeds in black plastic and leave in sun before disposing at refuse transfer station.
2. Cut and paint stems (spring-summer): Cut stems 15 cm above ground and paint stumps with picloram gel.
3. Cut and spray stems (spring-summer): Cut stems 15 cm above ground and spray stumps with glyphosate (200ml/L).
4. Overall spray (spring-summer): Spray foliage with glyphosate (200ml/L). To prevent damage to support plant pull the vine off the support, lay it on the ground and then spray.

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.

What can I do to stop it coming back?

Monitor the site and treat any regrowth from rhizomes or seedlings. Where appropriate plant a local native shrub,



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis

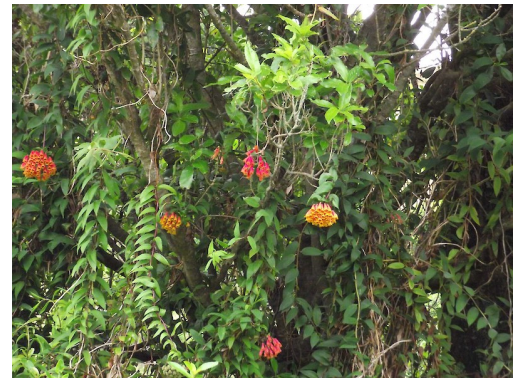


Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Trevor James

tree or climber.