

# Canna lily

## *Canna indica*

### Family

Cannaceae (canna lily)

### Also known as

Indian shot

### Where is it originally from?

Central and South America

### What does it look like?

Erect, leafy perennial herb (<2 m tall) with thick underground stems (rhizomes) and sturdy, unbranched, green and hairless above-ground stems from which large, green (sometimes purple tinged), oblong leaves (<45 cm long x 15 cm wide) with prominent midribs grow. Pinkish-red to reddish-yellow and occasionally yellow or orange-red flowers (5-6 cm long) grow from the top of the stem, often in pairs, followed by round seed capsules (2 cm diameter) containing round black seeds.

### Are there any similar species?

*Hedychium gardnerianum* (kahili ginger, wild ginger) and *H. flavescens* (yellow ginger)

### Why is it weedy?

Forms tall, dense, long-lived stands that are tolerant of a range of conditions including salt, wind, grazing or other damage, and damp to moderately dry conditions.

### How does it spread?

Seeds are spread by gravity and water, and pieces of underground stem (rhizome) also form new plants.

### What damage does it do?

Replaces all other plants on the ground, preventing natural regeneration, often leading to the invasion of weedy vines. Removes water from damp habitats.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Damp sites with high light in frost-free localities: wetlands, river margins, gullies, disturbed shrublands, forest margins, coastal areas.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Dig out scattered plants (all year round): Remove all roots and rhizomes and dispose of at a refuse transfer station.
2. Cut stems and paint: metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g) + glyphosate (50ml) + penetrant per 1L water, or a 3-5mm layer of picloram gel. Mulch the leaves and dispose of seeds at a refuse transfer station.
3. Overall spray (spring-summer): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g) + glyphosate (100ml) + penetrant per 10L water.

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Fragments remaining in soil will resprout so followup control by digging or spraying is required. Plant the site with local native plants to shade out seedlings.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis

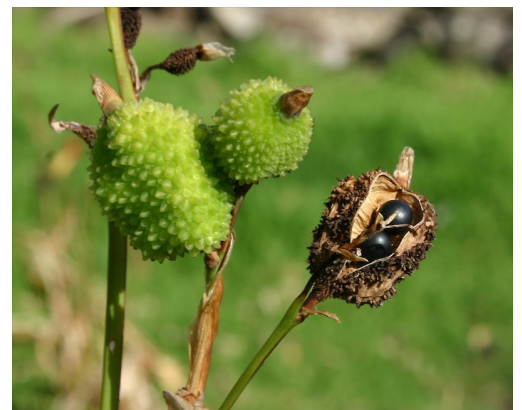


Photo: Trevor James



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