

# Cape ivy

## *Senecio angulatus*

### Family

Asteraceae (daisy)

### Where is it originally from?

South Africa

### What does it look like?

Scrambling perennial, often forming a dense tangled shrub (<2-3 m tall), with wiry to woody stems that are sparingly branched. Very fleshy, leathery leaves have 1-3 coarse serrations on each side, and the uppermost leaves are smaller, narrower and occasionally smooth edged. Dense clusters of yellow, ragwort-like flowers (11 mm diameter, Mar-Aug) are followed by fluffy seeds.

### Are there any similar species?

German ivy (*Senecio mikanioides*) is similar, but its leaves are much thinner and more delicate.

### Why is it weedy?

Produces many long-lived seeds that are dispersed a long way from parent plants. Moderate growth rate and layering stems, scrambles over shrubs and ground, forms dense, tall thickets. Tolerates salt, wind, drought, semi-shade and damage.

### How does it spread?

Wind spreads the seed, and seed and fragments are spread in dumped vegetation and soil movement. Common sources include waste places, roadsides, bush edges and gardens.

### What damage does it do?

Smothers ground and low-growing plants to 3 m tall, forming dense, long-lived mats that prevent the establishment of native plant seedlings.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Coastal, rocky areas, cliffs, bush edges, regenerating lowland forests and inshore islands.

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

Most easily controlled at flowering, when highly visible and before seed is produced.

1. Hand pull small plants, or dig out roots (all year round): Dispose of at a refuse transfer station, burn, or bury deeply.
2. Stump swab (all year round): glyphosate (100ml/L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L).
3. Cut stems below waist height, spray below this point (spring-summer to actively growing plants): glyphosate (10ml/L (knapsack) or 2L/100L (spraygun)) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g/10L (knapsack) or 20g/100L (spraygun)) or a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (60ml/10L) or a product containing 200g 2,4-D+100g dicamba/L (12ml/L) or dicamba 50g/L (24ml/L) or amitrole (150ml/15L (knapsack) or 2L/100L (spraygun)). Add penetrant to all mixes.

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

Cut stumps and dropped stems resprout. Bared areas reseed.



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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