

# Ferny asparagus

## *Asparagus plumosus*

### Family

Asparagaceae (asparagus)

### Also known as

*Asparagus setaceus*

### Where is it originally from?

South Africa

### What does it look like?

Scrambling or climbing evergreen fern-like perennial with feathery flattened stems that look like leaves, in bunches of 7-20 from each stem node. Tiny white flowers are followed by small berries that ripen from green to black.

### Why is it weedy?

Spreads easily and establishes in natural areas, twining up into supporting plants.

### How does it spread?

Berries containing seeds are spread by birds. Also spread by dumping of garden waste.

### What damage does it do?

Twining habit as it grows inhibits the growth of supporting plants.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Forest margins, farm hedges, roadsides. Prefers moderate to high light intensity. Tolerates dry conditions.

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

1. Hand pull small infestations; dig out all roots.
2. Cut and spray: cut stems at 60cm above ground and spray or paint remaining stems with metsulferon-methyl 600g/kg (5g/1L).
3. Overall spray: where vegetation beneath is not desirable, overall knapsack spray with glyphosate (100ml/10L + penetrant).

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

Check regularly for regrowth or seedlings.



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



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Trevor James



Photo: Carolyn Lewis