

# Madeira vine

*Anredera cordifolia*

Family Basellaceae

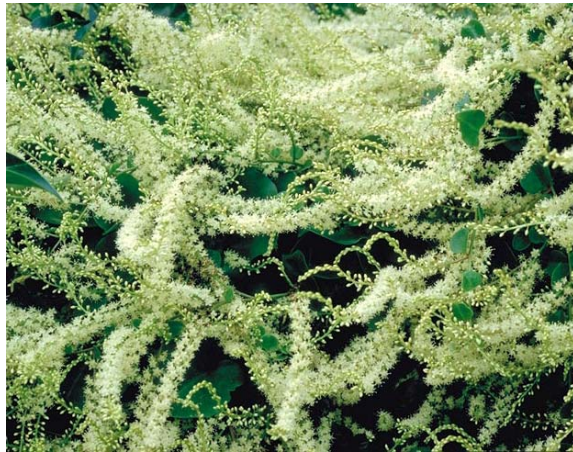


## Identification

- Woody, perennial, hairless, climbing vine with fleshy rhizomes (underground stems)
- 3-7 metre long reddish coloured slender stems with small, warty, aerial tubers
- Leaves are alternately arranged, heart-shaped and fleshy or succulent, with shiny surfaces, typically 2-11 x 2-10 cm.
- Many small, white, fragrant flowers hang in grape-like bunches from Jan-April



Aerial warty tubers. Photo: Northland Regional Council



Hanging grape-like bunches of flowers. Photo: K. McCombs

## Why is it a problem?

Madeira vine forms heavy, long lived masses which can smother all plants in the medium to high canopy zone. It is commonly found in coastal areas and scrub covered gullies. The weight of tubers can topple small trees. Madeira vine is tolerant of drought, damp, wind, salt and shade. Both the underground and aerial tubers can dislodge easily and will form a new plant. Although Madeira vine produces no seed in New Zealand, the tubers, stem and root system are very difficult to kill and even tiny fragments will resprout. Dumping of garden rubbish is the main means of dispersal for this species.

## Status

Madeira vine is an unwanted organism which means it can't be sold, propagated or distributed within New Zealand. To report sightings of Madeira vine, please contact the Potential Pest Line on (03) 363 9380 or email [weeds@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:weeds@ecan.govt.nz)



Madeira vine heart shaped leaves. Photo: A.Paltridge