

Banana passionfruit

Passiflora tripartita and *P. tarminiana*

Family Passifloraceae



Identification

- Vigorous vines that can climb to 10 m high.
- The leaves are 3-lobed with serrated edges.
- Long, pink, tubular flowers are produced year round.
- Oval green fruit up to 10 cm long follow flowering.
- The fruit turn yellow or orange as they ripen.



Banana passionfruit. Photo: DOC (P. Hughes).



Banana passionfruit fruits. Photo: DOC (P. Hughes).

Where is it found?

Passionfruit vines can be found growing in hedges, trees, plantations, roadsides, forest margins, private gardens, waste places, open forest, coastlines and streamsides. Banana passionfruit is growing wild on Banks Peninsula and the Port Hills. It can also be found growing in private gardens in Christchurch.

Why is it a problem?

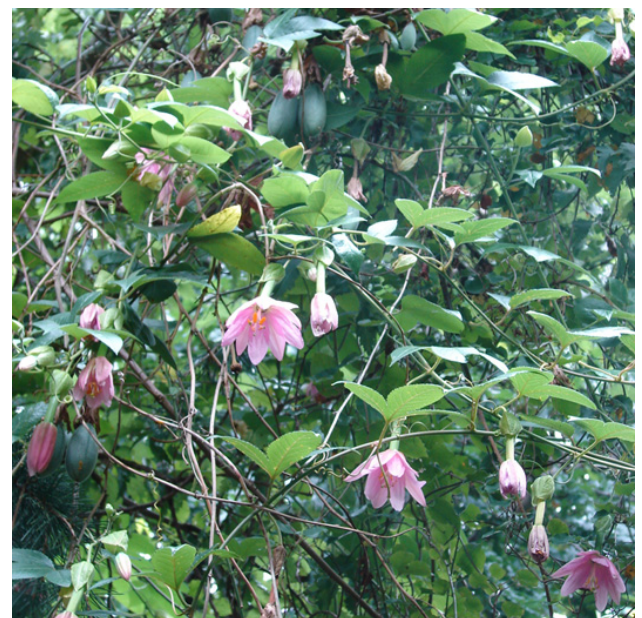
Banana passionfruit grows quickly to the canopy where it forms layers that smother the vegetation beneath. This prevents light reaching the forest floor and in turn stops desirable plant species from regenerating underneath. Birds and possums can eat the fruit, potentially dispersing the seed further afield. Banana passionfruit can also grow from fragments.

Status

Banana passionfruit (*Passiflora tripartita* and *P. tarminiana*) have been declared unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act, 1993 which makes it illegal to knowingly release, spread, display or sell, breed, propagate or otherwise distribute plants or parts thereof.

Control

Where possible, dig plants out. Don't leave material lying on the ground or compost it as it will re-sprout from fragments. Instead, take the plant material to an appropriate landfill. The stumps can be treated with an appropriate herbicide. Use all herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure no herbicide comes into contact with other plants, the soil or waterways.



Climbing banana passionfruit. Photo: DOC (P. Hughes).