

# Bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*)



Bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) is an extremely invasive weed in woodlands and forests. The climber smothers native plants by out-competing them for sunlight or strangling them with their twining stems. Bluebell creeper also contains toxins that can irritate the skin and cause nausea.

It is native to Western Australia and has been widely planted in gardens outside its natural range. It is now an environmental weed in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT.

## Description

Bluebell creeper is a twisting, evergreen shrub or climber growing to a height of 3–5 m. The leaf is shiny, oval or lance shaped, 5–7 cm long.

Flowers form small clusters of mainly blue, sometimes pink or white, bellshaped flowers. Flowers have five petals and are approximately 1 cm in size. Plants flower from spring to summer.

Small fleshy fruit are oval shaped and up to 2 cm long. They begin green and ripen to blue-purple in summer and autumn. Each fruit contains more than 50 seeds. Roots are wide spreading and shallow.

## Location

Bluebell creeper is spreading from the intersections of:

- Branch Creek Road, Margaries Road and Playford Highway
- Timber Creek Road and Playford Highway
- Berrymans Road and Colemans Road
- Franks Road and Hog Bay Road.

It is also spreading in the townships of Parndana and Vivonne Bay.

## Control methods

Pull up or dig out seedlings and saplings.

Cut or scrape the stem and swab with herbicide.

Spray leaves with a broad-leaf or non-selective herbicide.

For advice on chemical control techniques contact the Natural Resources Centre in Kingscote or download the *Weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia* for advice on chemical control:

[http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds\\_and\\_pest\\_animals/weeds\\_in\\_sa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa).

## Declarations

The following sections of the NRM Act apply to Bluebell creeper in the Kangaroo Island region:

**177** (1) Cannot sell the plant

**177** (2) Cannot sell any produce / goods carrying the plant

**182** (2) Landowner must control the plant on their land

**185** Recovery of control costs on adjoining road reserves

## For more information

**Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Centre**

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[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland/](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland/)



Natural Resources  
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