

# BANANA PASSIONFRUIT

*Passiflora tripartita*

## Management programme

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment (Taupō & Rotorua)	Sustained control (rest of region)	Site-led
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## Impacts

Economic	Biodiversity	Soil resources	Water quantity/ quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	Amenity/recreation	Animal welfare

## Objectives

Reduce the amount of banana passionfruit and the number of locations that have it within the Taupō and Rotorua districts and reduce its impacts on land elsewhere in the Waikato region.

## Why is it a pest?

Banana passionfruit is a vigorous, scrambling, smothering vine. It can grow in a wide range of habitats, including coastal areas, lowland and coastal scrub and shrublands and forest margins, along roadsides and in wastelands, and in farm and orchard hedges and domestic gardens. However, it prefers shrubland and forest margins with fertile soils.

It can blanket vegetation, out-competing other plants and preventing regeneration. It produces large, sweet fruit containing many seeds that are dispersed by birds, as well as possums, rats and feral pigs.

While recent climate modelling suggests banana passionfruit could only occur in certain parts of the Taupō and Rotorua districts within the Waikato region, the impact of this pest may be significant in these areas.

## Responsibility for control

### Taupō and Rotorua district (within the Waikato region)

**Waikato Regional Council is responsible for controlling banana passionfruit in the Taupō and Rotorua districts within the Waikato region. If you think you have seen it, call us – don't try to control it yourself.**

All occupiers are encouraged to report banana passionfruit on their properties in these parts of the region (rule BPF(TR)-1 of the **Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032**) and to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council in areas where control programmes are in place.

### Waikato region (outside Rotorua and Taupō districts)

#### Good Neighbour Rule GNR BPF-1

All occupiers in the Waikato region (outside of the Rotorua and Taupō districts) are responsible for controlling banana passionfruit on their property within 50 metres of a shared boundary where that neighbouring land is being managed for environmental values. Occupiers need to be good neighbours and do the same so that their neighbour's control efforts are not fruitless.

## Developers

If banana passionfruit is present on a property in these parts of the region that is to be subdivided or developed, there are additional rules and requirements that apply under section 6.6 of the RPMP 2022-2032.

**Banana passionfruit is also banned from being sold, propagated, distributed, or included in commercial displays.**

## What does it look like?

Banana passionfruit is a large, evergreen perennial vine with pink flowers. It can grow up to 10m high, maturing to fruit after only one year.



## Flower

- Single, hanging, tubular flowers with pink petals (up to 7cm in diameter).
- Flower tubes (hypanthium) are 8cm-9.5cm long.
- Flowers throughout the year, from January to December.



## Fruit/seed

- Thin-skinned oval fruit up to 12cm long by 3cm across.
- Fruit is initially green, turning to yellow or orange-yellow when ripe.
- Has edible orange pulp and red-black seeds (about 4mm long).



## Leaves/stems

- Three-lobed leaves are soft, downy and glossy green.
- Lobes are 5cm-14cm long (the middle lobe is the longest).
- Leaf stems are densely hairy.

## How can I control banana passionfruit?

You can only control banana passionfruit yourself on land in the Waikato region outside Taupō and Rotorua districts. If you live within the Taupō and Rotorua districts, please report any sightings of banana passionfruit to Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401.

### Physical control

Hand pull whenever possible or dig plant out at the roots. Cut off above ground or tie stems in air to prevent re-rooting.

### Herbicide control

In choosing your method of herbicide control, be aware that the climbing character of the plant could mean that the supporting plants may also be damaged by herbicide sprays used.

#### Cut and paste

- To avoid damage to supporting plants, cut main stems at ground level and treat stems immediately with glyphosate, metsulfuron or picloram gel.

#### Spray application

- If supporting plant damage isn't an issue, spray with glyphosate plus penetrant, triclopyr or triclopyr/picloram mix plus penetrant.

#### Safety when using herbicides

- Follow the instructions on the manufacturer's label.
- Always wear protective clothing.
- Always minimise the risk to your other plants.
- Contact the supplier for further advice.

## Summary of herbicides and application methods for control

Herbicide	Application
<b>Glyphosate, metsulfuron or picloram gel</b>	Cut and paste treatment.
<b>Glyphosate with penetrant or triclopyr, triclopyr/picloram mix</b>	Spray application.
Herbicide rules will apply. You may need to notify neighbours if spraying. The Waikato Regional Plan explains the agrichemical (herbicides) use rule in section 6.2.	
If applying herbicide over water, a resource consent may be required. Please check with Waikato Regional Council before you begin.	



## Similar looking plants

Blue passion flower (*Passiflora caerulea*) has five-lobed leaves and non-tubular whitish-purple flowers with purple filaments. Bat-wing passion flower (*Passiflora apetalata*) has two-lobed leaves (that resemble a bat wing) and small yellow-green flowers (to 12mm) that develop into grape-sized black berries. These passionfruit species are also banned from sale, propagation, distribution, or commercial display under the National Pest Plant Accord.



Blue passion flower

## More information

### Advice

For advice and additional information on control methods, call our pest plant staff on freephone 0800 800 401.

Chemical company representatives, farm supply stores, garden centres or the Weedbusters website can also be good sources for advice.

### Publications

The following publications are available from the Waikato Regional Council. Contact us to request a copy (freephone 0800 800 401).

- National Pest Plant Accord (Manual of plants banned from sale, propagation and distribution) (free)
- Plant Me Instead! (Plants to use in place of pest plants) (free)

### Web

- Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032* – [waikatoregion.govt.nz/RPMP](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/RPMP)
- Waikato Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032* – [waikatoregion.govt.nz/biosecurity-strategy](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz/biosecurity-strategy)