Cat’s claw creeper
*Macfadyena unguis-cati*

Cat’s claw creeper is a native of tropical America and is an aggressive climber that was used as an ornamental in older-style Queensland gardens.

This vine has the ability to completely smother native vegetation, even growing up over trees, and many bushland areas already have serious infestations of this weed. The vine has a vigorous root and tuber system, which adds to difficulties in controlling the weed.

**Description**

Cat’s claw creeper is a vine with long slender stems. Older stems become very woody with time. Its leaves each have two leaflets, with a three-clawed tendril (the cat’s claw) growing between them.

It has large, bright yellow, bell-shaped flowers in spring. The vine bears very long, narrow and flat pods containing many papery seeds.

**Management**

Use a pruning saw, machete or brush hook to cut all leads/stems up the trees. All above the cut will die, but regrowth will occur from the underground tubers. Digging the tubers out is not practical in most cases. Don’t allow the regrowth to reach host tree’s canopy; if they get away you will have to re-cut them.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at [Queensland Government Website](http://www.qld.gov.au).

**Reference:** Land Protection (Invasive Plants and Animals), 2007, “PP139, Weed Buster Fact Sheet”, the State of Queensland, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.