Climbing nightshade (Non Restricted Invasive Weed) 
Solanum seaforthianum

This South American vine was introduced into Australia as an ornamental climber. It is a fast growing plant that can smother native plants. The fruits are poisonous if eaten.

Climbing nightshade is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

Description

This slender vine has deeply lobed dark green leaves. The plant has distinctive mauve-blue flowers with the 5 petals arranged in a star shape. The centre of the flower has a cluster of yellow stamens.

Flowers grow in a cluster and develop into a green berry which turns red as it ripens.

The vine lacks any spines, thorns or tendrils.

Management

As the seed is bird dispersed, it is likely that the weed will be encountered growing under roosting trees or other vegetation.

Smaller vines are very easy to hand pull, especially when the soil is moist.

Larger vines can be hand removed, however care must be taken to remove all the major root sections. Any large roots remaining may re-sprout. It is important to remove the main root to at least 10cm under ground level.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at Queensland Government Website.