Native to Nigeria, mother-in-law's tongue prefers well-drained soils in shady areas, but will tolerate dry periods. This plant can form dense infestations, preventing regeneration of native plants in bushland and eventually forming a monoculture. It spreads by rhizomes.

Mother-in-law’s tongue is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

**Description**

Mother-in-law’s tongue is an upright succulent herb or forb that grows to 60cm. From the fleshy rhizome emerge stiff, lance-shaped leaves, 0.6–1.2m long, which are dark green with a mottling of grey-green and yellow throughout.

Small, cream to green, tubular flowers are carried on a spike.

**Management**

Carefully dig out isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all fragments of the substantial rhizome system are removed. This requires persistent effort and very regular monitoring of the site and removal of any new growth and its rhizome. Large clumps can be removed using machinery.

To prevent reshooting, all plant pieces should be put into strong bags and removed from bushland.

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