

LOOKOUT FOR IVY GOURD



Ivy Gourd is a fast-growing invasive vine spreading across Darwin. It smothers trees and other plants, harming suburban gardens and native bushland. Birds spread it by eating the fruit and seeds, so removing it from your garden can help stop the spread and protect our native vegetation.



MANAGING IVY GOURD



How to identify Ivy Gourd

Ivy Gourd is a fast-growing vine with ivy-like leaves that can range from heart to pentagon-shaped. A key feature are the small glands found where the leaf stalk attaches to the vine (circled in the image above). It produces white, star-shaped flowers and small cucumber-like fruits that turn red when ripe.

How to treat Ivy Gourd

For small patches, pull the vine out by hand and dispose in your red bin only. Remove as much of the root system as possible as any leftover pieces can regrow. Keep an eye on the area and remove any new growth promptly, including detached bits that may re-establish with aerial roots. For larger and more stubborn infestations, chemical treatment may be required (for correct herbicide handling, see the *NT Weed Management Handbook* online). The most effective chemical method is to cut the main stem and paste the exposed ends with a suitable herbicide – this will kill the vine but not the host tree. Follow-up monitoring and treatment may be required.



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