

# WANTED

# Indian Mynas

## Have you seen Indian Mynas in your area?

Indian Mynas originated in India and were introduced to Australia between 1862 and 1872. They are now establishing in the Northern Rivers area.

If left unchecked they will quickly breed into large flocks which will kill or displace many of our native birds.

## Description

The Common Indian Myna is a medium sized chocolate brown bird, about 12 cm tall, with a black head and neck, and a yellow beak, eye patch, feet and legs. White wing patches are obvious when the birds are flying.



## Behaviour

The Indian Myna scavenges on the ground in small family groups, eating almost anything. At night they congregate to sleep in noisy communal roosts under bridges, in large dense trees or in empty buildings.

Indian Mynas aggressively destroy eggs and chicks of other birds and can compete with native animals, such as Squirrel Gliders, for tree hollows. They are also known to damage fruit and grain crops.

## What can I do?

### Control

**Shooting:** Indian Mynas can be shot by licensed shooters in rural areas, or trapped and humanely destroyed.

**Trapping:** Some councils have traps for loan, or are conducting their own trapping programs. Traps can also be purchased from a number of suppliers.

The following website has plans for small traps (Peegee traps) that have been developed in Canberra and have now caught over 8000 mynas in the Canberra area.

<http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au/>

**Euthanasia:** Guidelines for euthanasia are at

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/majorpubs/guides/humane-pest-animal-control>

### Report

Report sightings of areas where large numbers of birds are roosting to your local council. See contact details on reverse. You can also add to the state-wide database by using the Wildlife Atlas at

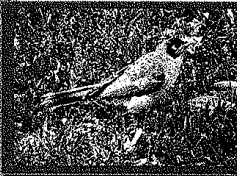
[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

### Discourage

- Do not leave pet food where Indian Mynas could eat it.
- Cover compost/bins
- Monitor nesting boxes to ensure they are not being used by Indian Mynas.
- Prevent Indian Mynas from nesting in your roof cavities by blocking holes or access
- Plant native plants to make the habitat unfavourable to Indian Mynas.

## Not to be confused with the native Noisy Miner

The native Noisy Miner is also communal but prefers feeding on insects, fruit and nectar in the leaves and bark of woodland trees and shrubs. It is common in coastal parks and is noted for its loud and frequent crying and scolding calls. A key difference is that the Indian Myna is brown whereas the Noisy Miner is mottled grey and white. They both have yellow beaks and eyes but only the Indian Myna has yellow legs.



## What is being done about Indian Mynas?



Indian Mynas will only be brought under control with community support. A number of councils and community groups are taking action in their local areas.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change supports cooperative management programs developed by local government and the community. Any reports of Indian Mynas on DECC estate will be surveyed and appropriate action taken. Report Indian Mynas in National Parks or Nature Reserves to your local office. Tweed: 66708600; Kyogle: 66320000; Byron: 66209300; Richmond River and Regional Office 66270200.

Byron Shire Council has purpose built traps available for community use. Residents of Byron Shire can report sightings of Indian Mynas or enquire about becoming involved in the community-based trapping program by contacting the Natural Resources Team on 6626 7000.

Lismore Shire Council has traps available for community use. To borrow traps or report sightings, contact the Council's Natural Resource Management Officer on 66250500.

Tweed Council has traps available for community use. Contact council on 66702400.

Kyogle Area - Upper Clarence Combined Landcare have traps available for loan. Contact Terry Moody on 66653133. Additional brochures are available from Kyogle Shire Council office and Visitor Centre.

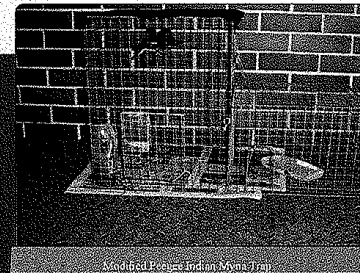
Clarence Valley Council is conducting a trapping program. Please report colonies, roost sites or suitable trap locations on 66430200.

### Tips on Trapping

- October to January is a good time for trapping
- Look for a communal roost tree
- Observe local habits - Indian Mynas may be using local or livestock watering points. Look for their day and night use areas
- Don't let them see you watching them - observe out of the corners of your eyes
- Set traps early and don't let them see you. Be careful not to educate them, otherwise you may teach them what not to do
- Check traps daily and remove any trapped birds at night. Don't approach traps in daylight hours
- Continue to survey after you believe you have eliminated the colony
- Engage other people in your community to assist

**Note: Indian Mynas are intelligent, fast learners. If you scare them, success is unlikely.**

For more tips on trapping go to <http://fennerschool-associated.anu.edu.au/myna/trapping>



Modified Purpose Indian Myna Trap

## How to Control Cats Claw

Large infestations are best controlled by using herbicide when vines are actively growing.

Hand control is impractical except for very small local infestations, as soil disturbance to remove tubers results in damage to remnant vegetation & potential for soil erosion.



## Cut Scrape & Paint

Larger vines are treated by cutting stems at a convenient height with loppers or tomahawk.

Immediately apply either 100% Glyphosate or 2 parts Glyphosate to 3 parts water to the cut surface of the vine attached to the ground by using a paint brush or squirt bottle.



Act quickly to ensure rapid chemical uptake by the vine, & a more effective kill. The vine up the tree will die when severed from its roots.

Cut smaller vines with secateurs. Lightly scrape the stem to increase chemical absorption surface area, & paint with poison, or dip into a poison pot.

*NB Do Not apply this technique to Madeira Vine. Madeira vine should not be cut - seek expert advice!*

## Foliar Spray

Regrowth & groundcover are effectively treated using foliar spray (1 part Glyphosate to 100 parts water + LI 700®). Do not contaminate waterways, and avoid spraying native species.

## Dos & Don'ts of Riparian Zones

Special conditions apply for using chemicals & clearing vegetation (including weeds) in riparian zones.



The aim is to eliminate-

- spray drift & contamination of waterways,
- soil disturbance & erosion &
- destruction of native species & habitat.

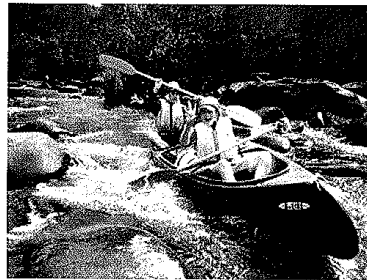
It is a legal requirement to use chemicals in accordance with labels & permits. You should also refer to relevant Material Data Safety Sheets.

Contact local consent authorities for permits.

## Additional Information

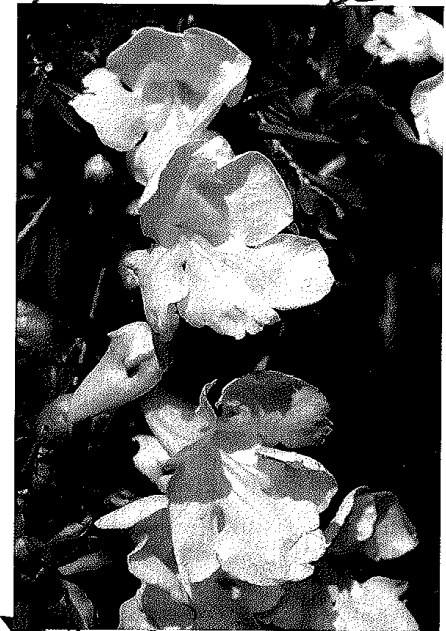
This brochure is an illustrative guide only. For detail on weed control methods & chemical applications for control of Cats Claw & other weeds, contact your local weed authority or Landcare office. Also refer to:

Rod Ensby (2001) *Agdex 647 Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook* NSW Agriculture, Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group (1998) *Common Weeds of Northern NSW Rainforests*, Bangalow.



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Working to Keep our Rivers Healthy

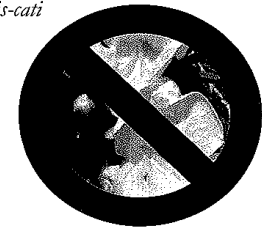
# CATS



# CLAW

*Macjadyena unguis-cati*

AUSTRALIA'S  
MOST  
UNWANTED



## Why Control Cats Claw?

Cats Claw is an aggressive ornamental South American vine that has escaped from home gardens to wreak havoc on remnant native vegetation.

Spreading from wind & waterborne seed, & tubers, Cats Claw is present in many coastal catchments. Over 160 km of the Clarence River has been invaded.



Heavily infested areas have a ghostly appearance of shrouded dead & dying trees.

Hundreds of vines with stems up to 15cm thick have infested & killed trees of up to 1.5m girth.

**Left unchecked, the vine has the potential to destroy all riparian vegetation.**

So What?

Riparian vegetation stabilises streambanks, provides habitat, & maintains water quality.

Destruction by Cats Claw will result in massive stream bank erosion, siltation & loss of waterholes, & loss of biodiversity.

Sediment slugs threaten survival of the endangered Eastern Freshwater Cod & will severely impact the fishing, agriculture, & tourism industries.



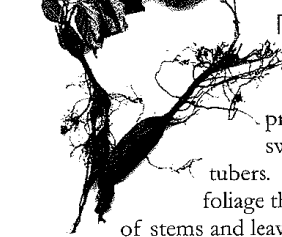
## How to identify Cats Claw?



### Growth Habit

Cats Claw is a perennial woody vine with climbing tendrils ending in three tiny, sharp, hooked claws resembling a cat's claw.

The 'claws' form at nodes along climbing stems allowing the vine to extend up and over tree canopies eventually smothering even the largest tree. Vines are fire, drought and frost resistant.



### Roots

An extensive matted root system produces numerous swollen underground tubers. Each tuber sprouts foliage that forms a carpet of stems and leaves.

### Leaves

Twinned glossy leaflets are dark green on top, pale green below and arranged opposite on the stem. Young leaflets are red brown.



Sediment slug moving through the Clarence River at Tabulam

Leaflets ~ 8cm



### Flowers

Masses of large, bright yellow, bell-shaped flowers (~8cm) are highly visible from spring to summer. Flowers are irregular, having two prominent ribs in the throat with three petals on the lower side and two petals on the upper side.



### Seed

Numerous long, flattened, bean-shaped seedpods are produced from summer to autumn. Pods turn from green to



brown when ripe. Seedpods split to release a profusion of wind and waterborne, two-winged, papery seeds.



Cats Claw flowers intertwined with flowering bottle brush.



Pods to 45 cm

### Similar Species

Seek expert advice if unsure of identifying Cats Claw. Do not confuse with native vines.