

# WILD GINGER

*Hedychium gardnerianum*



DENSE STAND OF KAHILI GINGER IN FLOWER



WILD GINGER RHIZOMES/ROOTS



WILD GINGER SEEDLING

Wild ginger is a name given to two species of invasive ginger plant in NZ. The common and more invasive species is also known as kahili ginger or ginger lily. The other species, yellow ginger, is less common and less invasive, but still a problem.

Both species of wild ginger are non-woody perennials originally from the Himalayas, and brought into NZ as garden plants that quickly escaped. Both species form dense clumps in native forests, smothering young plants and preventing native seedlings from growing.

It is a major problem in Kaipātiki as it thrives in urban reserves, especially near waterways, where it can spread quickly.

To help native plant life flourish, as well as to support our native birds and other wildlife, removal of wild ginger is advised.

## Features of Wild Ginger



- Large scented flower spikes (25-45 cm long).
- Yellow flowers with long red stamens.
- Flowers from January to March.



- Up to 100 red seeds produced per flower head.



- Large, glossy, waxy leaves arranged in an alternating pattern.

# WILD GINGER

## Manual Control

### For all size plants:

- Dig out surface rhizomes and tubers (roots).
- Keep roots and rhizomes off the ground to stop them regrowing (in a container, left to dry out).
- Collect up seeds/seed pods/ flower heads.
- Cut stems and leaves can be left to rot down or act as a mulch, as they will not regrow (note: cut above the pink collar)

## Disposal

### Dispose of roots/rhizomes and seed heads:

- Container of water with lid - leave to rot
- Waste to landfill - not green waste
- Flower heads/Seed heads can be buried deeply - more than 50cm deep

## Herbicide Control

- Cut above the pink collar and smear stump with 1-2mm layer of Cut 'n' Paste MetGel\*.

### With spray training:

- Can use metsulfuron\* 0.5g per litre, with penetrant 1ml per litre.
- Spray foliage *OR*
- Cut and spray stumps.
- *If within 5 metres of water, use glyphosate instead.*

## Important

- **Cutting wild ginger:** cut above the pink collar on the stalk always. The plant can only regrow from stalk with this pink material left on it.
- **\*For all herbicides:** avoid contact with skin and eyes; Read labels thoroughly before use; Apply sparingly, only in dry weather conditions; Avoid dripping onto soil or using near waterways. Cut'n'Paste MetGel is a Trademark. MetGel can affect non-target plants through soil transmission.

## Habitat and Distribution

All underground parts of the plant (roots and rhizomes) can resprout no matter how small. Both species can happily grow in most habitats such as damp forest and margins, streamsides, river systems, shrublands, fernland, high/low light, bad/good soil, urban reserves and gardens.

## Method of Spread

- Seeds are spread by birds and possibly possums eating the orange fleshy fruit.
- Rhizomes spread slowly outward from clumps, and new plants are established from rhizome fragments.
- The plant spreads slowly outwards and upwards on top of each other, and can create giant clumps of rhizomes 1 metre deep if left to establish.

## Life Cycle

- Plants tend to flower in January to March.
- After the flowers have fallen, the remaining flower stalks begin to produce fruits during winter.

## Further Information

To prevent infestation and reseeding, DO NOT dispose of wild ginger fruit heads, seeds or the rhizomes/roots in your compost, or in garden waste bins. Please dispose of these parts of the plant to household rubbish. Foliage and stems can be composted or placed in garden waste bins.

If you have questions, want assistance, or want to borrow weeding resources, email [pestplants@pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz](mailto:pestplants@pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz)

For more information on pest plants including disposal, visit [www.pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz/pest-plant-resources](http://www.pestfreekaipatiki.org.nz/pest-plant-resources)



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