



Best practice control methods for Cat's claw creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*)

Cut-stump method

Use: Best for large, mature vines climbing trees.

Action: Cut the vine at two points: first at 1–2 metres high to clear the area, then again as close to the ground as possible.

Application: Immediately apply neat glyphosate or Vigilant Gel (within 15 seconds) to the vine stumps that have been freshly cut.

Scrape-and-paint

Use: Ideal for smaller vines (less than 1 cm diameter stems) or as an alternative for medium stems.

Action: Use a knife or saw to scrape a 20–50 cm strip of bark to expose the living tissue (sapwood) without cutting through the stem.

Application: Apply glyphosate or Vigilant Gel herbicide directly to the scraped area within 15 seconds.

Stem injection (drill and fill):

Use: Used for exceptionally thick, woody stems and tubers.

Action: Drill holes approximately 10 cm apart around the stem or directly into visible underground tubers.

Application: Fill holes with undiluted glyphosate or triclopyr/picloram herbicide immediately after drilling.

Foliar spraying

Use: Most effective for ground-covering mats, seedlings, regrowth under 2 metres tall or vines growing on fences and buildings.

Constraint: Avoid spraying vines in trees to prevent 'off target' damage to the host plant.

Action: Spray actively growing leaves until they are wet but not dripping (point of run-off) with:

- Glyphosate360 (e.g., Roundup) 100 mL per 10 L of water.
- Dicamba500 (more selective) 40 mL per 10 L of water.
- Picloram + triclopyr (residual herbicide will control seedlings for 12 months) 50 mL per 10 L water.

Management tips

Timing: Apply between September and May when the plant is actively growing for maximum absorption.

Dye: Mix dye with the herbicide to easily track which stems have already been treated.

Long-term commitment: Chemical treatment rarely kills all tubers in one go. Monitor and retreat regrowth 2–3 times a year for at least 5 years to exhaust the underground tuber bank.

Vine disposal

Solarisation: Place plant material in sealed black bags and leave them to dry for approximately six months before disposing of them in landfill.

Complete drying of tubers and plant parts: Hang to air-dry thoroughly until fully desiccated, then dispose of in landfill.

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