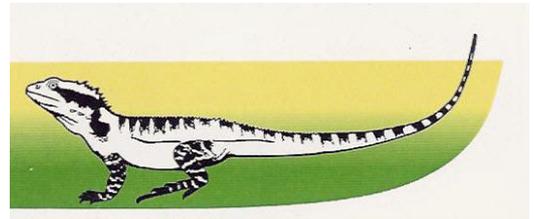
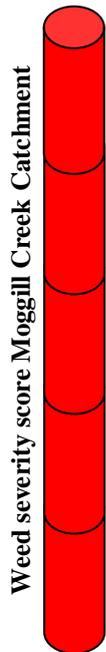


Moggill Creek Catchment Group
Six of the **Worst** Environmental Weeds
of our Catchment



No 2: Climbing asparagus fern (*Asparagus africanus*)

Why is this plant considered to be an Environmental Weed?



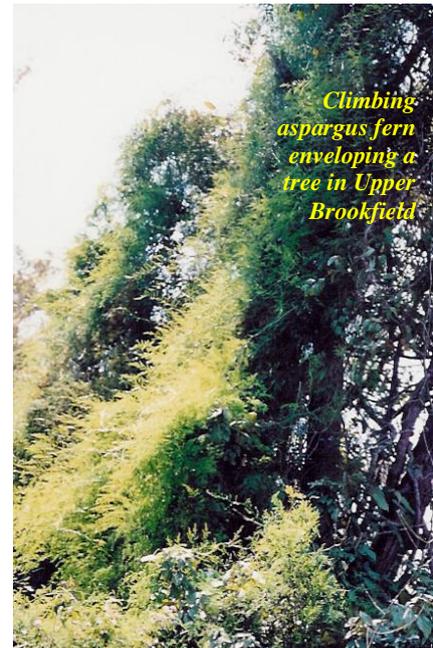
Weed severity score Moggill Creek Catchment

Climbing asparagus fern has gone wild in many areas of Brookfield and Upper Brookfield, enveloping and killing quite large trees. Birds are attracted to the fruit, spreading the seed over large distances. Quite often clusters of seedlings are found around trees where birds perch. Climbing asparagus fern is adapted to a range of soils, being found close to creeks as well as on hillsides. Like many environmental weeds, this species was introduced as an ornamental.

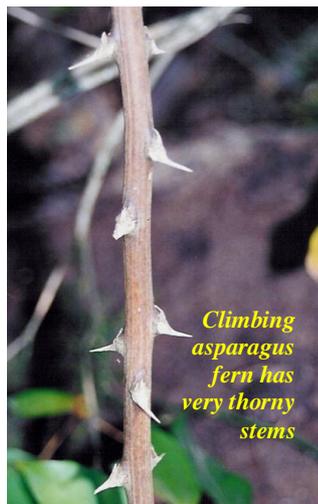
What does climbing asparagus fern look like?

Climbing asparagus fern is not really a fern at all, but belongs in the lily family. It is a climber, in time forming a dense tangled mass of stems over the tree that is supporting it. Roots are horizontally spreading, and very tough. Stems are covered in

spines up to 1 cm long and leaves are very narrow and in clusters. Climbing asparagus fern produces small white flowers which are followed by orange berries about 5 mm in diameter. There are no native species in our area with which this species can readily be confused.



Climbing asparagus fern enveloping a tree in Upper Brookfield

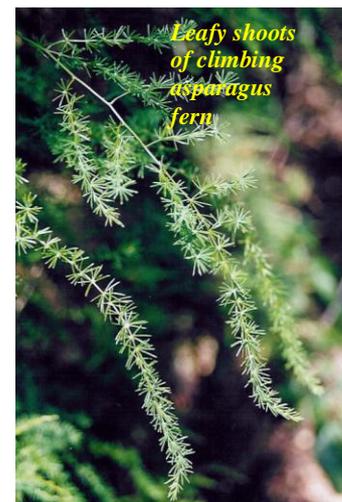


Climbing asparagus fern has very thorny stems

How do I control climbing asparagus fern?

Climbing stems should be cut, but not pulled down, as this is likely to damage the 'host' tree. We have found that, when stems are cut close to the ground and treated immediately with c.50% glyphosate (360 g/L), good control can be achieved*.

Some members of our group have found it effective to cut into large crowns and paint with 1:1 glyphosate in water. Basal bark spraying with Fluroxypyr (200g/L) at a rate of 35ml/1L diesel has also been



Leafy shoots of climbing asparagus fern

recommended.* In general, treating plants while they are growing actively is most effective.

* Be sure to read manufacturer's instructions before using herbicides

For further information and advice, contact MCCG, PO Box 657, Kenmore

or visit us at www.moggillcreek.org

For more information, visit <https://www.daff.qld.gov.au/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/weeds>