

**BALLOON VINE***Cardiospermum grandiflorum***CLIMBERS AND  
GROUND COVERS**

Family Sapindaceae

Origin Tropical Africa and Asia

**Description** A perennial vine spreading to about 2 m. The vine needs humus-rich, well drained moist soils in protected, shaded areas. It is drought and frost tender<sup>1</sup>. This species invades moist areas such as gullies and coastal rainforest<sup>2</sup>.

**Stems/Leaves** Creeping, hairy stem with hairy leaves<sup>1</sup>. Stems have reddish ribs. Alternate, compound leaves with 9 leaflets. Leaves are toothed margins and yellowish-green in colour<sup>8</sup>.

**Flowers** Tiny, white fragrant flowers<sup>1</sup>. Flowers from summer to autumn<sup>2</sup>.

**Fruit/Seed** Green, balloon-like, papery, membranous capsules 4 cm across, containing smooth seeds. The seeds are dropped close to the mother plant and dispersed via floating and wind<sup>8</sup>.

**Root system** Taproots and lateral roots<sup>8</sup>.

**Removal techniques**

**Manual** For smaller infestations hand pull young and mature plants<sup>2</sup>.

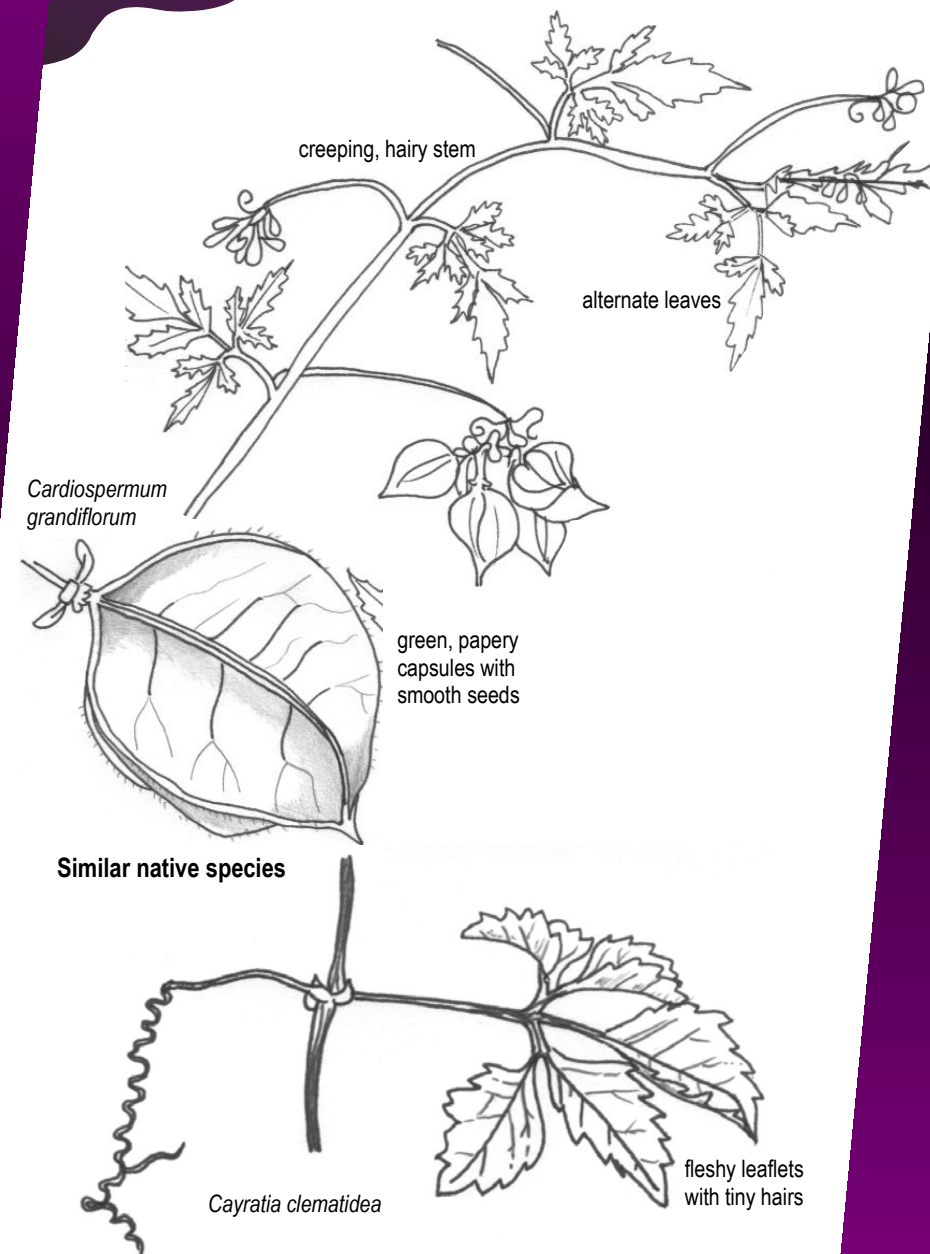
**Chemical** Chemical controls are available. Spray the weed with glyphosate at a ratio of 1:100. Also treat regrowth. For larger plants scrape stem or cut stump and apply undiluted glyphosate<sup>22</sup>. Must be followed up with weeding of seedlings for two years<sup>2</sup>.

**Similar native species**

Slender Grape (*Cayratia clematidea*): A herbaceous scrambler with stems mostly under 1m long. Compound, fleshy leaflets sprinkled with tiny hairs. Small green flowers with 4 petals during summer. This creeper forms a large tuber underground from which new foliage sprouts each spring and dies away in autumn<sup>9</sup>.

**Notes**

After disturbance, such as fire, the seeds germinate and the plant re-shoots from the taproots<sup>8</sup>.

**BALLOON VINE***Cardiospermum grandiflorum***CLIMBERS AND  
GROUND COVERS**

**BALLOON VINE**

*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*

**CLIMBERS AND  
GROUND COVERS**

**BALLOON VINE**

*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*

**CLIMBERS AND  
GROUND COVERS**