



11. Wild ginger

Hedychium gardnerianum

What is wild ginger?

Wild ginger is an invasive weed which grows quickly in forests and other habitats, causing problems for many native plants in New Zealand. It can grow up to 2 metres tall.

Why is wild ginger a problem?



Wild ginger can take over forest areas. It forms large mats of tubers (tube-like thickened stems) as it grows. These big tubers can smother native plants and stop light getting to them, threatening their survival.



How do I know it's wild ginger?

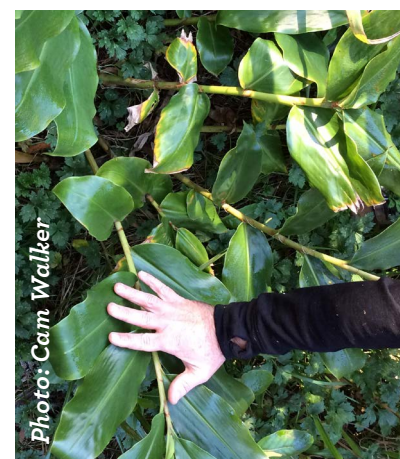
Wild ginger has thick stems with large, shiny, thick leaves growing out from them. In summer – autumn big, yellow flowers with long red stamens (stalks in the middle of flower) grow up from the stems. These pleasant smelling flowers later become orange fruits.

How does it spread?

Wild ginger seeds can spread through birds moving them. It can also spread and grow through underground stems called 'rhizomes'.



Wild ginger comes from South Africa.



For more detailed information about wild ginger and how to control its spread see:

weedbusters.org.nz

