

## Weed of the Month - Formosan Lily (*Lilium formosanum*)

### Common names

Formosa Lily, Formosan Lily, Taiwanese lily, Taiwan lily, Trumpet lily, St Joseph's lily

### Family

Liliaceae

### Origin

Taiwan

### Description

Tall stems, 1-2m high, with elongated green leaves that alternate up the stem. Stems emerge in early summer from bulbs or seeds, and flowers appear midsummer. Large, white, trumpet shaped flowers with 6 petals, are situated on the upper part of the stem, often with multiple flowers present. Pure white and heavily scented on the inside and showcasing slight pink or purple stripes on the outside. The flowers turn into long cylindrical seedpods (5-9cm long) containing winged seeds that disperse upon opening.

### How do they spread?

They grow from bulbs in the soil, as well as from the millions of winged seeds that they produce.

### Why are they an issue?

Their ability to spread prolifically and in the air allows them to establish throughout paddocks, bushland, in gardens etc., and compete with native species for water, nutrients, and sunlight.

### Where are you likely to find it?

Island wide

### How can I control it?

1. Picking the flowers is a great start as this stops the seeds from developing.
2. Digging up the bulbs and burning the whole plant (flower, bulbs, seedpods) or dropping them into the Waste Management Centre to be HOT composted.
3. Over spray: Metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (Brush-Off) 5g/10L water plus 50mL Glyphosate 360 g/L.



Lilli-unna King

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER**

13 January 2022