

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED OF THE MONTH – Cascade Onion

Cascade Onion

Moraea flaccida

Common Names

Cape Tulip, Cascade Onion, Kaaskied Anyen

Family

Iridaceae

Origin

South Africa

Description

Corms sit dormant in the ground for much of the year, with leaves emerging around August. 1-3 tough, grey/green, strap-like drooping leaves 30-90cm in length grow from the base of a round corm. From September/October a zigzag flower stem emerges with 6 petalled salmon-coloured flowers. These are followed by narrow cylindrical seedpods containing lots of light brown seeds.

How do they spread?

Spread by corms that multiply and lay dormant in the ground for up to eight years. Also spread by seeds on the wind, by animals or on machinery.

Why are they an issue?

Will heavily infest roadsides, pasture, paddocks and open areas. All parts of the plant are TOXIC TO ANIMALS and to people. Will compete with natives for resources.

Where are they likely to occur?

On roadsides, paddocks and open spaces. So far the spread seems to be in the Steeles Point/Cascade/Midlegate areas of the island however it is capable of infesting the entire island.



Photo Credit: Michael Moerkirk



Photo Credit: Trevor James

How can I control it?

1. Spot spray with 0.2g Metsulfuron methyl dissolved in 15 L water + Pulse®(surfactant).

Apply just on flowering at corm exhaustion.

NOTE: This herbicide will not kill the grass.



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ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT OFFICER

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