

Blue morning glory

Ipomoea indica, Convolvulaceae

- vigorous climber
- densely smothers other plants
- even outgrows other vine weeds
- grows high into the canopy, up to 12 m
- three lobed leaves
- hairy, pinkish-purple stems
- fibrous roots
- funnel shaped blue-purple flowers which age to pink
- seed rarely produced in NZ
- used to be sold as a beautiful garden plant
- is related to kumara
- *Ipomoea* means worm



Control: For small areas - as for other vines, dig out the roots and remove the whole plant from the site to avoid regrowth from stem fragments. Check for regrowth and reinvasion regularly. For severe cases – if trying to preserve any surviving natives under the morning glory, cut the vines' stems and dip the end which is still attached to the roots into an appropriate herbicide for 10 – 15 minutes (thicker stems can be painted rather than dipped). Otherwise, repeated blanket spraying is probably the only realistic option.



Above: seedling form.



Photos: above, N. Henderson, WeedFree Trust;
top and bottom right, A. Stanton.