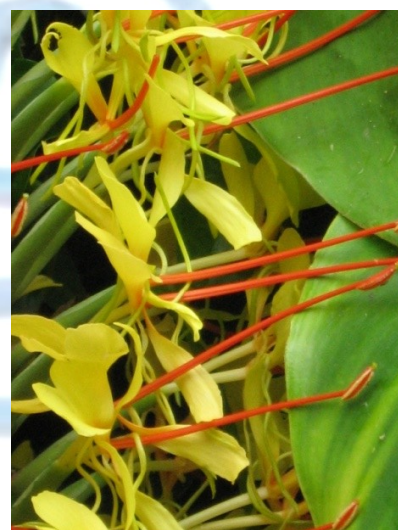


Wild ginger, Kahili ginger

Hedychium gardnerianum, Zingiberaceae



- long-lived monocotyledon
- large fast-growing clumps smother other plants
- tolerates shade, frost and drought
- all plant parts smell of ginger
- large shiny leaves
- yellow flowers with scarlet stamens produced in late summer
- numerous red seeds in orange fleshy fruit dispersed by birds such as blackbirds and tui
- large impenetrable rhizome masses may grow to 1 m deep
- rhizomes look like the ginger root used in cooking and are edible
- seed is short lived, being viable for just two to four years
- originally from east India

Control: Seedlings and small plants can be pulled or dug out, but any rhizomes and seed heads need to be sent to landfill, not composted. Any rhizome fragment can resprout, even after immersion in seawater, crushing or years spent out of the soil. Large plants need to be sprayed or cut off horizontally at the base and painted with herbicide. Keep checking the site for re-growth and new seedlings.