

PLANT native plants in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help to repopulate the area with desired species and prevent new and recurring invasions.

MONITOR the site. It is crucial to come back every 6-12 months to reassess the area and to pull the inevitable regrowth that has sprouted. This will effectively prevent re-infestation.

Other Control Methods

Chemical methods should only be utilized if you feel that your infestation of clematis is too large or difficult to remove by hand and with basic tools. Please visit 4countycwma.org for more control recommendations.



Clematis in blossom and going to seed. Photos: City of Portland BES

A Word of Caution

For any herbicide applications we urge you to work with a licensed herbicide applicator and to please contact your county noxious weed coordinator. Always read and follow the label on any chemical product you are using!



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

www.4countycwma.org



OLD MAN'S BEARD OR TRAVELER'S JOY

(*Clematis vitalba*)

OR Class B Weed

WA Class C Weed



Photo: City of Portland BES

Overview

Old Man's Beard is a climbing vine that can completely cover other plants, including whole groves of trees at any height. Old Man's Beard shades out desirable vegetation and weighs trees down, posing a hazard to trees, buildings, vehicles, and pedestrians in high wind and rain events.

Often found near roadways and at the forest edge, Traveler's Joy is quickly spreading and threatens our native plants. This invasive is widespread throughout the entire Pacific Northwest and has diminished the diversity in our forests and green spaces. Each plant can produce more than 100,000 seeds annually.

How to Identify

Old Man's Beard is a fast growing perennial vine with grooves along its length. Leaves are compound and lime green, coarsely toothed, ovate and deciduous. Flowers are small, thin, greenish white, and tend to grow in loose clusters. Fluffy and feathery tendril-like hairs hang from each tiny seed, which gave the plant its common name "Old Man's Beard."

It is easiest to identify in winter, when the fuzzy seed-heads hang on the vines after leaves have fallen.

Lookalikes

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*) is a wide-spread climbing vine native to western Oregon that may be mistaken for Traveler's Joy when not in bloom. However, the flower of the native honey suckle is distinctive, with a bright orange, trumpet shaped flower.



Orange honeysuckle in bloom. Photo: Brandy Shaul

When to Remove

The best time to manually remove Old Man's Beard is when the soil is moist. Removing the roots will be easiest during fall and spring when temperatures are mild.

Old Man's Beard vines can grow 20-50 feet per year depending on various conditions, thus it is crucial to remove this plant as quickly as possible.



Clematis seed heads. Photos: Johnida Dockens



Clematis seed heads and leaves. Photo: Nate Woodard

Basic Manual Control Methods

TOOLS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- Gloves
- Loppers or hand pruners
- Shovel
- Cardboard

DO NOT pull vines off of trees. Attempting to pull vines down from trees can harm the tree by pulling off bark, twigs, and leaves and can cause large branches or entire trees to fall.

If an Old Man's Beard vine is in a tree, CUT the vine at about eye level or as high as possible. Remove the lower portion of the cut vine and pull or dig out the attached roots, the hanging vines will die on their own.

If an Old Man's Beard vine is running along the ground, use gloves to PULL up the entire vine. Either pull or dig roots from the ground.

When disposing of vines, make sure to keep all plant parts off of the soil as vine fragments can also take root and form new plants. Either pile vines on top of 2-3 layers of cardboard on site, or compost vines off site. To further prevent Traveler's Joy from re-rooting, it may be helpful to turn piles over occasionally and check the underside for new growth.