

Morning Glory

I rate the morning glory as the worst weed any gardener could have. Yet look how beautiful the flowers are! It's not hard to work out how this arrived in the garden.

These plants are commonly known as the 'Coastal Morning Glory' in Australia, the 'Mile a Minute Morning Glory' internationally, and *Ipomoea cairica*. The main reason it's known as 'Mile a Minute Morning Glory' is because it grows at a mile-a-minute, rampaging over worthwhile plants!

This is a wicked weed that is still sold in garden centres. It has incredible tolerance of dry harsh conditions and once established, is almost impossible to eradicate using traditional weed sprays such as Glyphosate. Glyphosate normally travels down the plant's stem and into the roots of the plant, killing it within 14 days. Morning glory has developed a tolerance to the spray and is often not even set back by spraying with this highly effective herbicide.

Pulling the plants out only serves to cultivate it by triggering stronger growth. This is a weed that is a genuine nightmare.

Here's the good news, if you pull the plants out wherever noticeable and spray over damaged roots, stems and leaves using blackberry and tree killer, after four or five concerted clearing efforts, you will eventually wipe it out.

One more word of warning – the morning glory vine cuttings and foliage must not be put in a compost pile, bin, or allowed to lay on the surface of the soil in your garden. It will drop roots and take a hold of the garden again. Morning glory is a terrible weed that you have to be very careful of. The best thing you can do is to pop it into a plastic rubbish bag and dispose of it that way.

Pretty scary really isn't it! This plant is, in my opinion, the worst weed a gardener can have. So don't go and buy it next time you're out at the nursery, and if you have planted one recently, get it out of the ground now! And, if you thought it was safe to grow as a pot plant – it's not! It germinates readily from seed and will spread rapidly once it germinates.