

## Dog Strangling Vine

**Dog strangling vine**, is an invasive plant that is a threat to monarchs. Monarchs will mistake it for milkweed and lay their eggs on it. All monarch larva feeding on dog strangling vine will die as the plant cannot sustain them.

### **How to Identify Dog-Strangling Vine**

- Grows one to two metres high by twining onto plants, trees or other structures.
- Leaves are oval with a pointed tip, seven to 12 centimetres long, and grow on opposite sides of the stem.
- Pink to dark purple star-shaped flowers have five petals about five to nine millimetres long.
- The plant produces bean-shaped seed pods four to seven centimetres long that open to release feathery white seeds in late summer.
- Dog-strangling Vine prefers open sunny areas, but can grow well in light shade. It grows aggressively up to two metres high by wrapping itself around trees and other plants, or trailing along the ground. Dense patches of the vine can “strangle” plants and small trees.
- The plant can produce up to 28,000 seeds per square metre. The seeds are easily spread by the wind, and new plants can grow from root fragments, making it difficult to destroy. The vine has invaded ravines, hillsides, fence lines, stream banks, roadsides and utility corridors. Dog-strangling Vine is also found in prairies, alvars (limestone plains), plantations of pine trees and natural forests.



Photos and text from  
<http://www.invadingspecies.com/invaders/plants-terrestrial/dog-strangling-vine/>

