

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Huskisson



Stems with green and ripening fruit. Photographer Jackie Mles



Plant. Photographer Jackie Mles

Common name

Asparagus fern

Family

Asparagaceae

Where found

Urban bushland, **woodland**, gardens, rocky **habitats**, and coastal environs. Prefers moist sites. Sydney area. Occasionally coast and ranges elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced perennial climber to about 2 m high, or sprawling. **Rhizomatous**. Forms dense impenetrable mats. Fruit fleshy. Stems **wiry**, hairless. True leaves scale-like, 0.1-0.2 cm long, **subtending** the 'leaves'. 'Leaves' in clusters of 3, 0.5–1.5 cm long, 0.5–1.5 mm wide, hairless, flattened, tapering at the base, tips with a small abrupt point. Flowers white to pinkish, with 6 '**petals**' each 3–4 mm long. Flowers in clusters of 1–3. Flowering: chiefly winter and early spring; fruits until summer. Ripe fruit orange to red, more or less oval, 5–7 mm in diameter.

A Weed of National Significance. General Biosecurity Duty with additional restrictions all NSW. Pest plant ACT. Noxious weed Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Asparagus-scandens> (accessed 4 January, 2021)

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