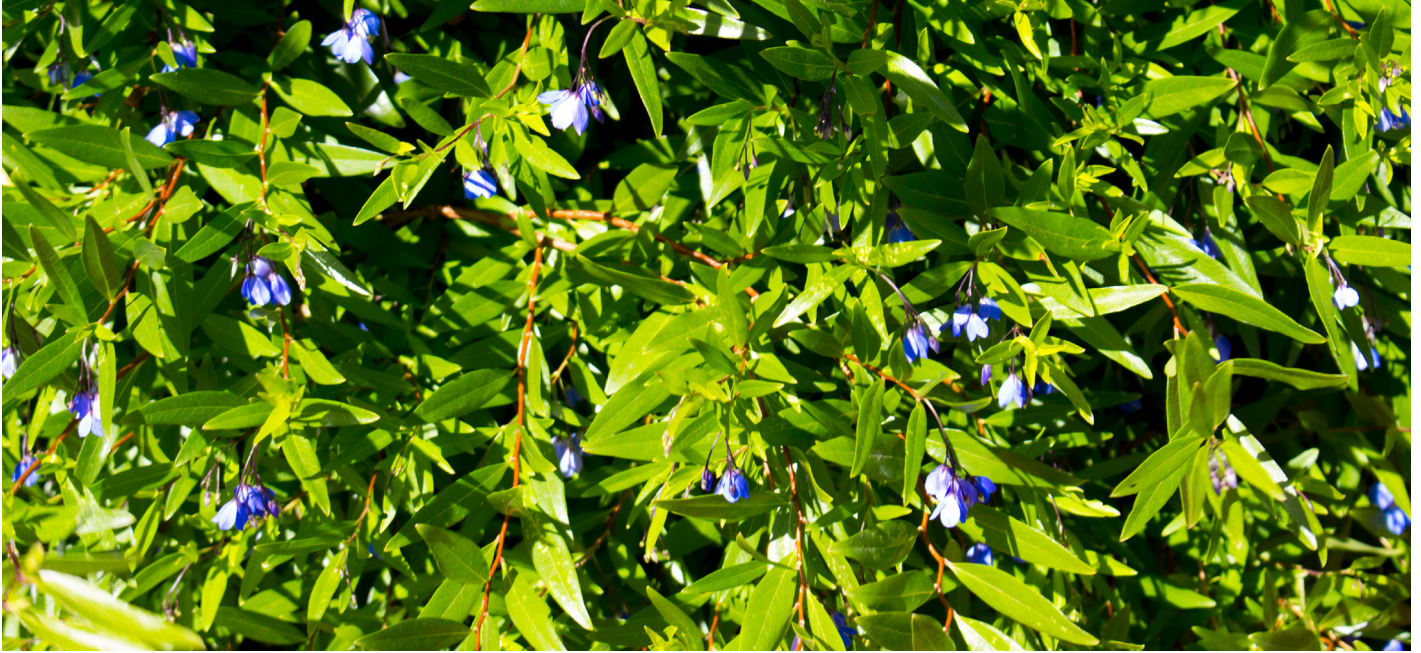


# Bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla* syn. *Sollya heterophylla*)



*Bluebell creeper*

Bluebell creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*) is an extremely invasive weed in woodlands and forests. The climber smothers native plants by out-competing them for sunlight or strangling them with their twining stems.

Bluebell creeper also contains toxins that can irritate the skin and cause nausea.

It is native to Western Australia and has been widely planted in gardens outside its natural range. It is now an environmental weed in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT.

## Description

Bluebell creeper is a **twisting, evergreen shrub or climber growing** to a height of **3–5 m**. The leaf is shiny, oval or lance shaped, 5–7 cm long.

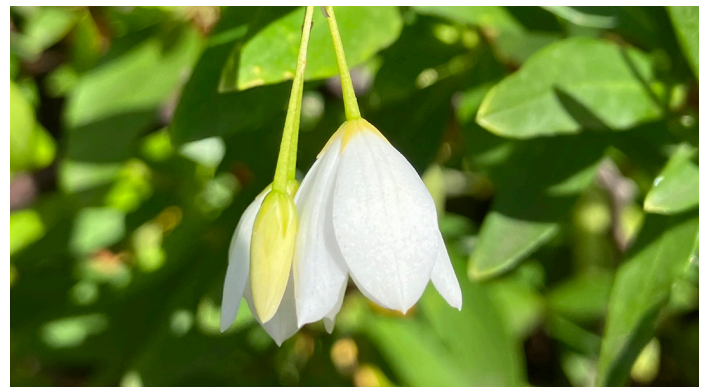
Flowers form **small clusters** of mainly **blue**, sometimes **pink** or **white**, **bellshaped** flowers. Flowers have **five petals** and are approximately 1 cm in size. Plants flower from spring to summer.

Small fleshy fruit are **oval shaped** and up to 2 cm long. They begin green and ripen to blue-purple in summer and autumn. Each fruit contains more than 50 seeds. Roots are wide spreading and shallow.

## Control methods

- Pull up or dig out seedlings and saplings.
- Cut or scrape the stem and swab with herbicide.
- Spray leaves with a broad-leaf or non-selective herbicide.

For advice on chemical control techniques contact Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu or visit <https://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/controlling-weeds>



*Bluebell creeper flowers and seedpods*

## Bluebell creeper vs native sweet apple-berry

Bluebell creeper can easily be confused with a number of local native species including sweet apple-berry (*Billadiera cymosa*), one-flower apple-berry (*Billadiera uniflora*) and yellow-flower apple-berry (*Billardiera versicolor*).

Sweet apple-berry has a tubular purple to white flower and will not be drooping, while bluebell creeper can have a blue, white or pink bell-shaped flower (usually in summer) and the flower will hang down. Bluebell creeper also has a longer, narrower seed pod (about 20-25 mm long) than sweet apple-berry which has seed pods approximately 10-15 mm long.

It's important to be sure on identification before undertaking control methods. If in doubt, contact your local Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu Stewardship Officer on 8391 7500.



**THIS IS NATIVE SWEET APPLE-BERRY**  
**Do not remove or poison**

## Bluebell creeper Declarations

The following sections of the *Landscape SA Act* apply to bluebell creeper in the Hills and Fleurieu region:

188 (1) Cannot sell the plant

188 (2) Cannot sell any produce / goods carrying the plant

192 (2) Landowner must control the plant on their land

194 Boards may recover certain costs from owners of land adjoining road reserves



**THIS IS BLUEBELL CREEPER**  
**Undertake control method on page 1**

## Further information

Further information is available through Landscapes Hills and Fleurieu

**Mount Barker Office:** Cnr Mann & Walker streets, Mount Barker, 5251 (08) 8391 7500

**Email:** [hf.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au](mailto:hf.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au)



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