

# Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

**Cape ivy**  
*Delairea odorata*

**Other common names: German ivy**

**USDA symbol: DEOD**  
**ODA rating: A**



**Introduction:** *Delairea odorata* is native to South Africa. It is a hardy perennial vine that can invade various plant communities, while most destructive in coastal riparian habitats. Cape ivy is an escaped ornamental plant with long stems, glossy light-green leaves, small yellow flowers, and an extensive rhizome system. Vines form dense mats of vegetation that extend over trees and shrubs, killing understory plants.

**Distribution:** It is known only from Curry County in Oregon.

**Description:** *Delairea odorata* is a perennial vine that climbs up trees and will reach heights of 16.4 ft. (5 m) in suitable climates. The leaves are alternate, broadly deltate to "ivy-shaped", with 5-7 shallow, but with sharply pointed lobes. Flowers are axillary or terminal cymes, with individual flowers yellow, disk corollas 0.16-0.2 in. (4-5 mm) long arranged in clusters.

**Impacts:** Cape ivy is a hardy perennial vine that can invade various plant communities, while most destructive in coastal riparian habitats. Cape ivy is an escaped ornamental plant with long stems, glossy light-green leaves, small yellow flowers, and an extensive rhizome system. The ivy forms impenetrable mats as it climbs native shrubs and trees to form a solid layer that blocks out light and smothers other vegetation. It drapes from tree to tree, aptly nicknamed the "kudzu of the west." Cape ivy contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (liver toxins) and can be toxic to animals when ingested. It can be expected to cause significant impacts to forest communities and increase maintenance costs for right of way managers.

**Biological controls:** No biocontrol agents are available. Oregon infestations are subject to eradication.

