



Photo: Chris Aldassy, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

## Other Control Methods

Use herbicide control methods only for large infestations where manual and mechanical removal becomes impractical. For any herbicide applications we urge you to work with a licensed herbicide applicator. To learn more, consult the best management practices provided by the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area ([www.4countycwma.org/AWeeds/Best-Management-Practices/](http://www.4countycwma.org/AWeeds/Best-Management-Practices/)). If any information provided contradicts the label, the label takes precedence. Always read and follow the label on any herbicide product you are using!

Please contact your local weed program in either Oregon ([www.Oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx](http://www.Oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx)) or Washington ([www.NWCB.wa.gov/Find-Your-County-Weed-Boards](http://www.NWCB.wa.gov/Find-Your-County-Weed-Boards)) for more information about how to control this invasive weed.



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

[www.4CountyCWMA.org](http://www.4CountyCWMA.org)



## OLD MAN'S BEARD OR TRAVELER'S JOY (*Clematis vitalba*)

4-County CWMA Class B  
Oregon Class B  
Washington Class C



Photo: City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services

## Overview

Old man's beard is an aggressive climbing vine that can climb over and smother native vegetation, including whole groves of mature trees. It shades out desirable plants and weighs down trees, creating hazards for buildings, vehicles, and pedestrians in high wind and rain events. Often found near roadways and at the edge of the forest, old man's beard is quickly spreading into and threatening native forest habitat. Each plant can produce more than 100,000 seeds annually.

## How to Identify

Old man's beard is a fast growing perennial vine, with grooves all along tough stems. **Lime green leaves have 5-7 leaflets** which are coarsely toothed, ovate and deciduous. Flowers are small, thin, greenish-white, and grow in loose clusters. Feathery tendril-like hairs hang from each tiny seed, creating a white puff which give the plant its common name. The **fuzzy seed heads** remain on the vine after the leaves have fallen.

## Look-alikes

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera ciliosa*) is a wide-spread climbing vine native to western Oregon that may be mistaken for old man's beard when not in bloom. The flower of the native honey-suckle, however, is **bright orange and trumpet shaped**.

## When to Remove

The best time to manually remove old man's beard is when the soil is moist. Removing the roots will be **easiest during fall and spring**, when temperatures are mild and the roots are easier to dig. The vines can grow 20-50 feet per year, depending on light and soil conditions, so it is crucial to remove as soon as possible.



Photo: City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services

## Manual Control Method

### TOOLS YOU NEED:

- Hand pruners or hand saw
- Shovel
- Cardboard

1. **DO NOT** pull vines off of trees. Attempting to pull vines down from trees can harm the tree by pulling off bark, twigs, and leaves and can cause large branches or entire trees to fall.
2. If an old man's beard vine is in a tree, **CUT** the vine at about eye level or as high as possible. Remove the lower portion of the cut vine and **PULL** or **DIG** out the attached roots; the hanging vines will die on their own.



Photo: Nate Woodward, 4-County CWMA

3. For vines running along the ground, **PULL** or **DIG** roots from the soil and pull up the ground vines to prevent re-rooting.
4. **PILE** vines on top of 2-3 layers of cardboard on-site, or **COMPOST** vines offsite. When disposing of vines, make sure to keep all plant parts off of the soil as vine fragments can take root and form new plants. To further prevent old man's beard from re-rooting, it may be helpful to turn piles over occasionally and check the underside for new growth.
5. **PLANT** native plants in the area that is being controlled after the bulk of the invasive plants are removed. This will help to repopulate the area with desired species and prevent new and recurring invasions.
6. **MONITOR** the site. It is crucial to come back every 6-12 months to reassess the area and to pull the inevitable regrowth that has sprouted. This will effectively prevent re-infestation.

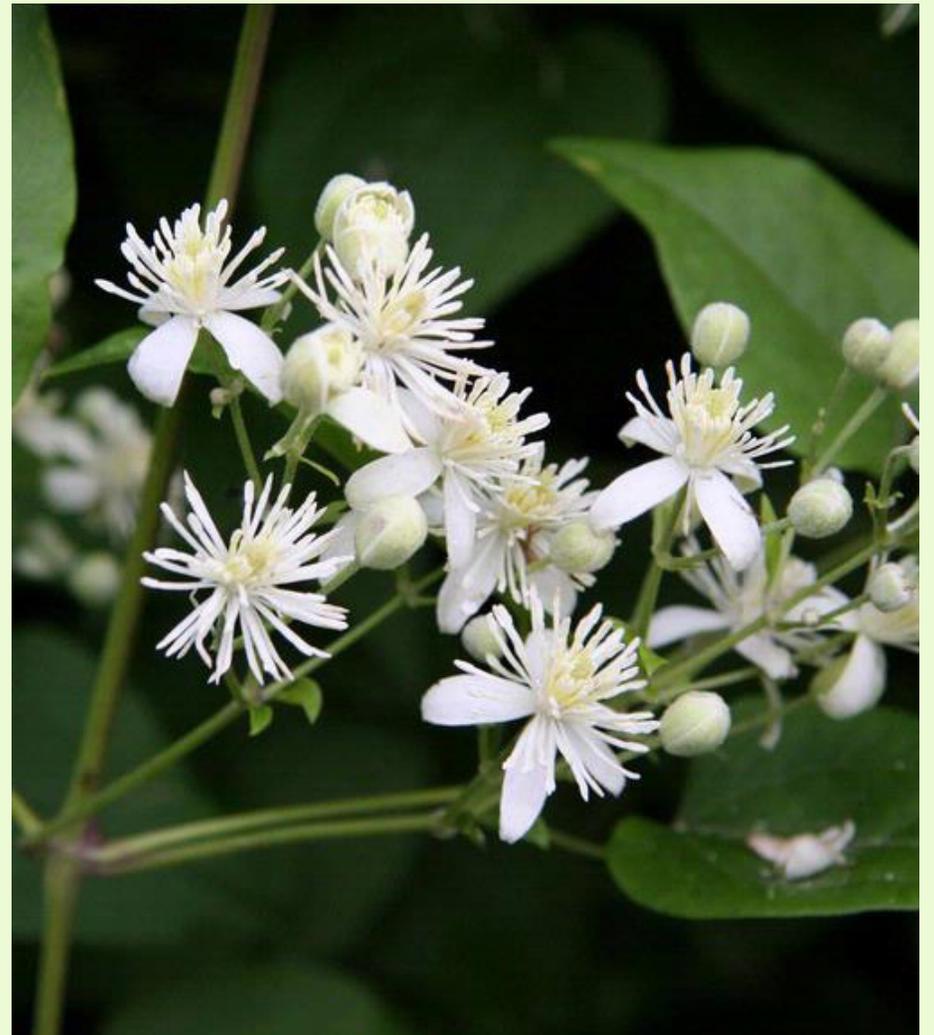


Photo: Photo: Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org