

Agapanthus praecox

Common names: Agapanthus, Nile lily, African lily, blue umbrell

Not-so-fun Facts:

- ★ Native to South Africa
- ★ A popular and very hardy border plant that is almost impossible to remove once established - be VERY careful what you wish for
- ★ A very hardy species tolerating a wide range of conditions
- ★ Invasive to neighbouring gardens, roadsides, rocky outcrops, bushland and pasture



Image source: Agriculture Victoria. Photos by Mark Imhof

Identifiable characteristics:

- ★ Erect, rhizomatous evergreen perennial herb
- ★ Grows 0.25-1m tall and up to 0.6m wide
- ★ Roots are dense and fleshy and can crowd out other vegetation
- ★ Foliage is upright (300-500mm in length) and forms clumps
- ★ Clusters of 20-40 odourless blue, purple or white funnel shaped flowers are held together in a rounded 'ball' on top of a tall flowering stem
- ★ Flowering time is late Spring to Summer

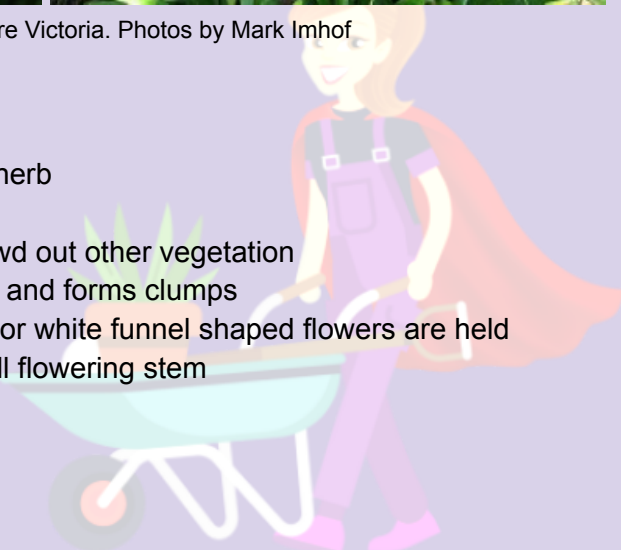




Image source: Private collection. Photos by M. Thomson

Life cycle:

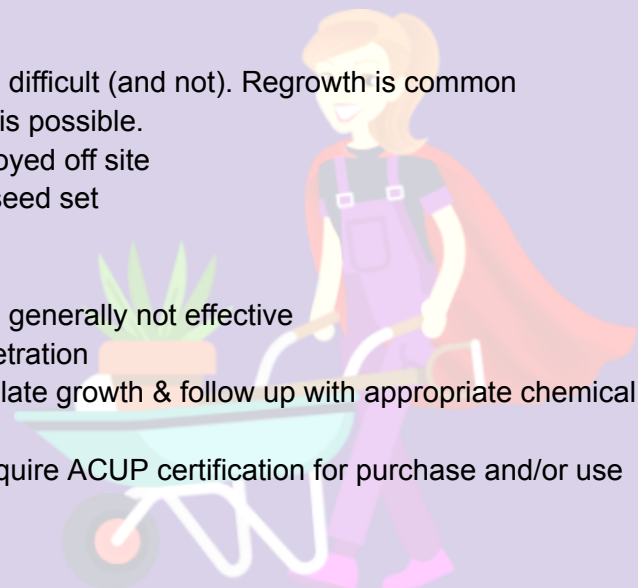
- ★ Reproduction is vegetatively by suckering rhizomes and by seed
- ★ Fruit is leathery green three-sided capsules (25–50 mm long)
- ★ Each capsule contains 20-100 black seeds which are easily carried in the wind and/or in waterways

Non chemical control methods:

- ★ Physical removal of larger specimens is difficult (and not). Regrowth is common
- ★ Physical removal of smaller specimens is possible.
- ★ Ensure all roots are removed and destroyed off site
- ★ Remove spent flowering heads before seed set

Chemical control methods:

- ★ Herbicides (particularly Glyphosate) are generally not effective
- ★ Surfactants may improve chemical penetration
- ★ Brushcut or mow low to ground to stimulate growth & follow up with appropriate chemical 'cut & paint' application
- ★ Some recommended chemicals may require ACUP certification for purchase and/or use



References & super helpful resources:

Agriculture Victoria

https://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/weeds_herbs_perennial_agapanthus

Weeds Australia

<https://weeds.org.au/profiles/agapanthus-african-lily-lily-of-the-nile/>

Yarra Ranges Council

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Trees-and-vegetation/Weeds>

