



PENNINGTON CONSERVANCY

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MORNING GLORIES

Ipomoea indica. I. purpurea

Family: *Convolvulaceae*

Afrikaans: Purperwinde, maanblom

isiZulu: ijalamu

Description:

- ❖ *Ipomoea indica* is a species of morning glory known by several common names, including blue morning glory, ocean-blue morning glory and blue dawn flower
 - ❖ *Ipomoea indica* is a tender perennial vine
 - ❖ It can be found throughout the tropical and warm areas of the world as an introduced species
 - ❖ *Ipomoea indica* is cultivated in gardens and greenhouses in many regions for its large blue flowers
 - ❖ Morning glories are decorative blooming vines that twine around fences, porch rails, and even other shrubs
 - ❖ As its name suggests, the morning glory blossoms unfurl in the morning hours to greet the sun and then close later in the day as the sun gets hot; by evening, when temperatures are cooler, the blooms are tightly closed
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Origin:

- ❖ Native to Mexico and Central America
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Reason for Introduction:

- ❖ For ornamental use
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Where found / Problems caused:

- ❖ Found along the KwaZulu-Natal coast and in a number of inland areas, these vigorous, fast growing plants invade forest, woodland, wetlands, wasteland, riverbanks, arable land, roadsides and coastal dunes
 - ❖ Once established morning glories rapidly transform the landscape by smothering indigenous species
 - ❖ Cara category 1/3
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Did you know?:

- ❖ This plant is considered poisonous
 - ❖ It has been used as a powerful laxative
 - ❖ The seeds are hallucinogenic
 - ❖ It has been a favourite in Japanese poetry, where it is used to suggest a variety of meanings; one cheery poem entitled “Morning Glories” goes: *“In the dewey freshness of the morning, they smile respectful greetings to the Goddess of the Sun.”*
 - ❖ **BUT** there is another side to the morning glory as a vine, it is tenacious and hardy
 - ❖ The Zulus use the plant as a purgative and as an anti-syphilitic
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Control:

- ❖ Difficult in wooded areas as stems grow to relatively great lengths and can root where they touch
 - ❖ Large areas can be cleared manually if care is taken to follow up and pull out all “wandering” stems
 - ❖ Refer to WESSA-KZN’s *Invasive Alien Plants in KwaZulu-Natal* for detailed control methods. This book can be purchased from the Conservancy
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Additional General Information:

- ❖ The Conservation of Agriculture Resources Act (CARA-Act 43 of 1983) was primarily aimed at conserving the agricultural resources of our country, but in 2001, invasive alien regulations were first introduced under CARA.
 - ❖ These constituted an important step in combating the threats imposed by IAPs
 - ❖ As of now, the regulations list 198 legally declared invasive alien plants and they have been classified into three categories
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Acknowledgements:

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- ❖ The Mtunzini Conservancy for the idea
 - ❖ Invasive Alien Plants in KwaZulu-Natal Management and Control: A Wildlife Handbook, produced by WESSA-KZN
 - ❖ <http://www.dwa.gov.za/wfw/Docs/Books/brochure07.pdf>
 - ❖ http://salbu.co.za/dkoa/NEMA_Weeds_050429.html
 - ❖ http://www.freebase.com/view/en/ipomoea_indica
 - ❖ <http://hubpages.com/hub/Ipomoea-purpurea-common-morning-glory-tips-and-legends>
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It is hoped that this series will create awareness in respect of Invasive Alien Plants and guide and advise us in terms of what is required to control and manage these plants

Should you have any questions or require further clarity, please contact:

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Disclaimer:

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness, neither the Pennington Conservancy, nor any person or entity involved with the compilation of this 12 part series, accept any accident arising from the use of the products noted or guidelines provided
