

Comparison between the two forms of bridal creeper

Above ground - cladodes (leaves) and stems

Below ground - tubers and roots

Darker green

Leathery

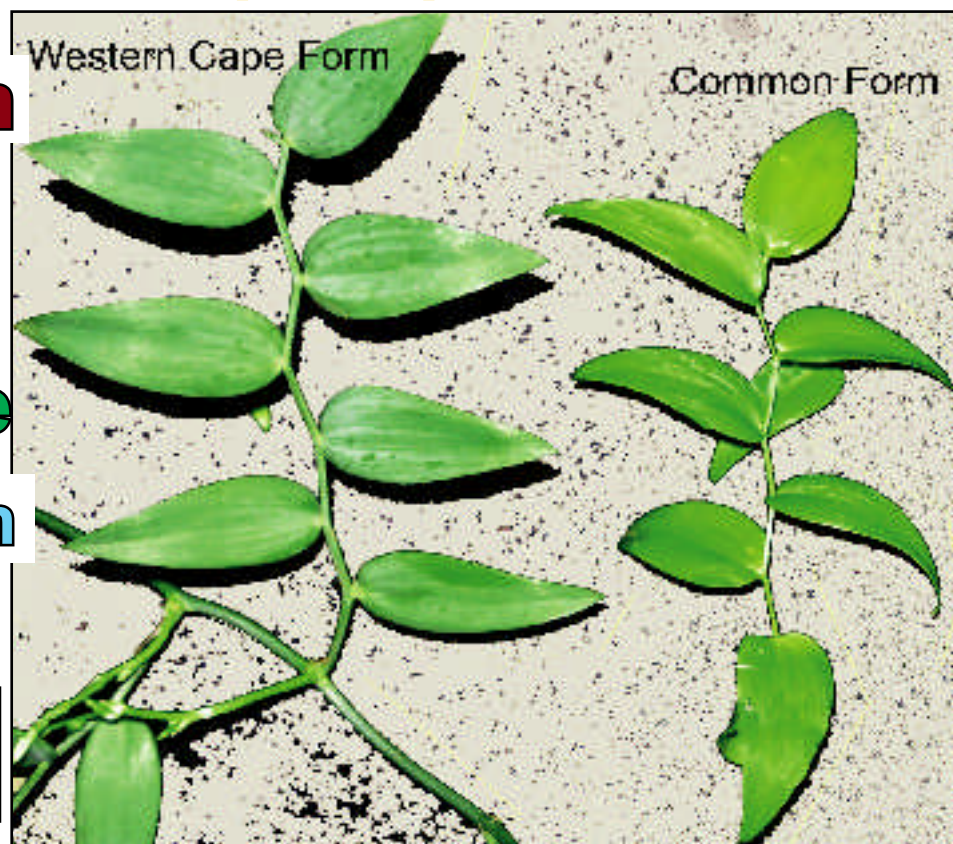
Flatter leaf

Waxy texture

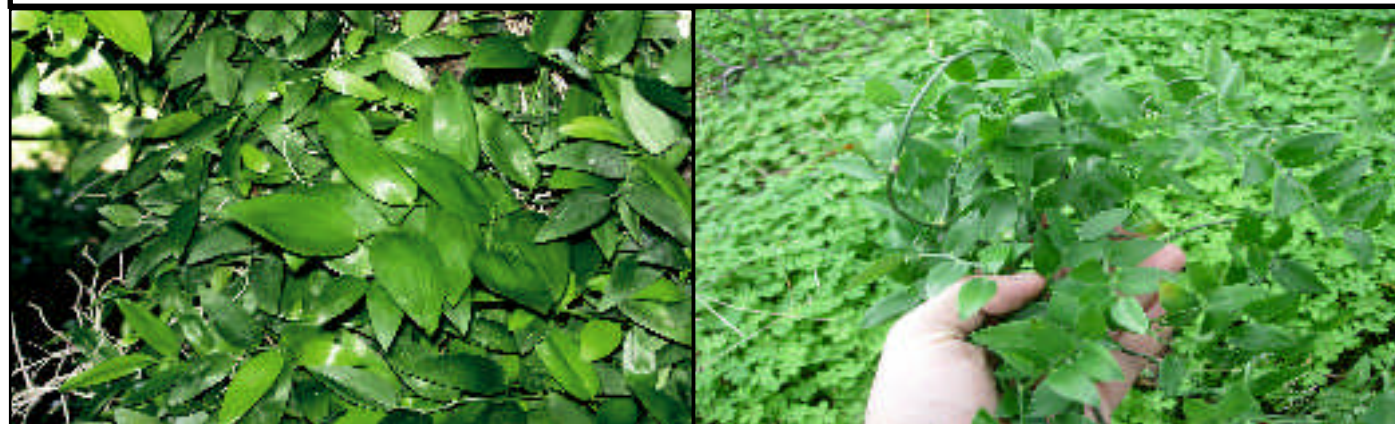
Robust growth

Larger leaf

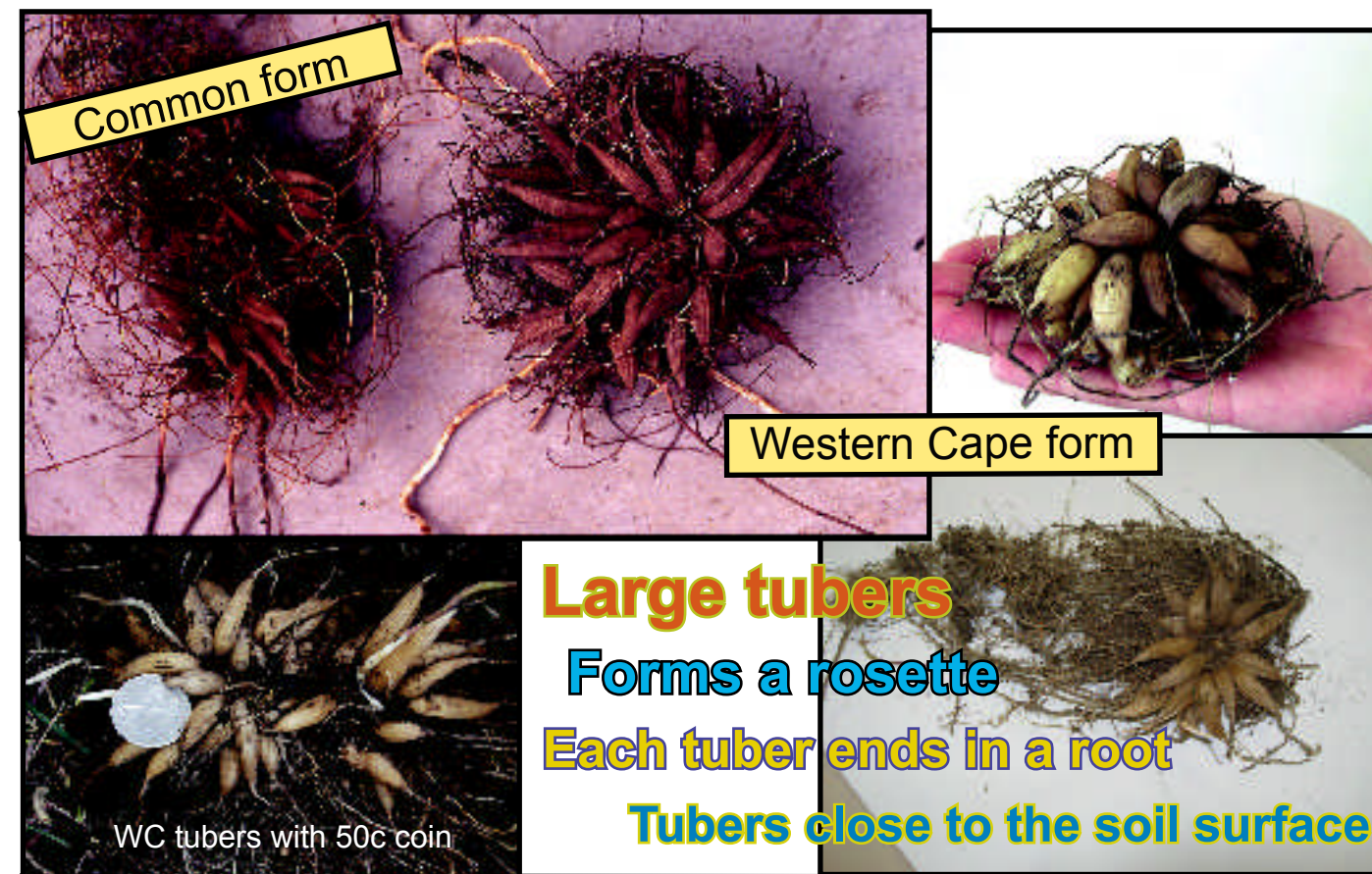
Please do not just rely on the leaves for identification. Dig up the tubers to be sure



The two forms can be distinguished from the above ground growth but this is often difficult to the untrained eye. The Western Cape's cladodes (leaves) are larger and coloured a darker green. The common variety may match this colour but generally it has a lighter, grass-green shade. The texture of the cladode differs. The Western Cape form tends to be dull and leathery whilst the common form is soft with a high sheen. The stem of the Western Cape form is far more angular than that of the common bridal creeper. One indicator of the weed's presence may be the absence of the bridal creeper rust fungus. Be particularly vigilant if you are struggling to establish rust in your patch.



May be growing amongst common bridal creeper !



The tuber mat of the Western Cape form is the one feature that easily distinguishes it from the common form. Tubers reach a length of between 40 and 75 mm, considerably larger than the common bridal creeper. They lie parallel to the ground, forming a vertical column that is packed in a rosette around the rhizome. The common form tends to grow horizontal to the soil surface, at least ten centimetres underground. Each Western Cape tuber ends in a fine root. The top of the Western Cape tuber mass grows close to the soil surface.

