

## **Moonflower Talk NCWAC Weeds Forum Sawtell 2005-03-04**

### ***Ipomoea alba* syn *Calonyction aculeatum* “ Moonflower”**

-annual or perennial vine, heart shaped leaves to 10cm, trumpet shaped white-greenish fragrant flowers open at night in summer autumn, reproduces by seed, and adventitious roots along prostrate stems.

#### **Distribution**

Natural, tropical America, southern Florida

#### **Weed**

Pacific Islands, southern Africa, southern USA, China

#### **Australia**

-northern NSW, southeast Queensland

-introduced 1948, naturalised 1985

-ornamental cultivated in gardens

#### **Northern NSW**

small scattered populations

-Tweed: Stotts Island, Banora Point

-Richmond: near Alstonville, Boatharbour, Lennox Head

-Clarence: Susan Island, riverbanks near Grafton

-generally riverbanks, wetter forest edges and gaps

#### **Impact**

-rapid growth rate, forms dense curtains smothering trees and other vegetation. Heavy vine that can break down canopies.

#### **Control**

chemical control (spraying) difficult, off target damage

- trials in paddock on Susan Island near Grafton: glyphosate poor results, amicide very good

-hand removal best, mass of “cables”, but pull up easily, especially when soil is damp, cut/paint major roots

-very laborious, repeat treatments required to treat regrowth from fragments and seed germination.