



## *Asparagus setaceus*

### **Common Name(s):**

asparagus fern

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial. Forest margins, understory, shrublands; waste areas, abandoned gardens - often appearing in hedgerows.

### **Features:**

Slender, scrambling or climbing perennial. Rootstock a cluster of fleshy tubers, often massive compared with the delicate size of the aerial stems and foliage. Stems to 3.8 m tall, almost woody below, green and much-branched above. Branches widely spreading with branchlets fern-like and cladodes all lying in one plane. Cladodes needle-like, extremely fine, 3-7 mm long, 7-20 at each node. Small white flowers are held at the end of the stems in groups of up to 4. Small (6mm diam) round dark purple-black berries containing 1-3 black seeds.

### **Flowering:**

November, December

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3487](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3487)



**Caption:** Climbing through garden shrubs, Liverpool St, Whanganui  
**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



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