**INSTRUCTIONS:** TO USE THE KEY

Read the statements 1 and 1x which offer two alternatives. Choose the statement which is most appropriate to the specimen that you wish to identify.

Read the two statements directly below the chosen statement, e.g. 2 and 2x.

After choosing one, follow the instructions in the key to the next statement.

---

* = naturalised species.

**Note:** cladodes are leaf-like structures

1. Flowers unisexual; erect herb to 1.5 m; cladodes 3 of unequal size per axil, acicular, 5–30 mm long, 0.5–1 mm wide; berry red.................................

................................................................................*

    Asparagus officinalis

1x. Flowers bisexual ............................................................. go to 2

2. Cladode 1 per axil, broadly ovate to lanceolate, 10–70 mm long, 4–30 mm wide; sepals and petals shortly united; aerial stems +/- annual ...............................*Asparagus asparagoides, Restricted

    (Category 2, 3, 4, 5) weed

2x. Cladodes more than 1 per axil, linear to narrowly lanceolate; sepals and petals free; aerial stems perennial ............................................. go to 3

3. Flowers in racemes, axillary ...................................................... go to 4

3x. Flowers not in racemes, axillary or terminal ............................... go to 6

4. Sprawling shrub; cladodes flattened, 2–5 per axil, linear, 15–25 mm long, 2–3 mm wide; berry red.................................................................

................................................................................*Asparagus aethiopicus ‘Sprengeri’, Restricted

    (Category 3) weed

4x. Tall climber ............................................................................ go to 5

5. Cladodes linear, 30–60 mm long, 3–5 mm wide, straight or falcate, with distinct midrib; berry red.................................*Asparagus falcatus

---

For Weed Spotters Network enquiries contact the Queensland Herbarium on (07) 3896 9326

Or visit http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/plants/herbarium/weeds
5x. Cladodes acicular to filiform, 3–6 per axil, 10–30 mm long, to 1 mm wide; berry red................................. *Asparagus racemosus

6. Plants not climbing; erect shrub to 1.5 m; cladodes 3 per axil, acicular, 6–20 mm long, 0.5–1 mm wide;
berry bright orange .......................................................... *Asparagus virgatus

6x Plants climbing............................................................. go to 7

7. Flowers terminal, solitary or paired; cladodes numerous per axil, finely acicular, 4–7 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; berry black................................................................. *Asparagus plumosus Restricted (Category 3) weed

7x. Flowers usually axillary, numerous .................................. go to 8

8. Spines present below cladode clusters; cladodes numerous per axil, subulate to flattened, 10–15 mm long, 0.5 mm wide; berry bright orange ............................................................... *Asparagus africanus Restricted (Category 3) weed

8x. Spines present on main branches but not below cladode clusters; stems zigzag and whitish to pale grey; cladode numerous per axil, filiform, 7–45 mm long, berry orange or pinkish red .........................

For more information: