

Pest Plants

of the Wellington Region

- TC** total control
- RS** regional surveillance
- C** containment
- SL** site-led



Pest plants are everyone's responsibility

There are now more exotic plants growing wild in New Zealand than native plants. Many of these are threatening our regions parks and reserves, and others are invading our productive land. Many of these are considered weeds as they can cause serious harm to our environment, health risks to people or loss to our agricultural industries.

With so many "weedy" plants out there it's everyone's responsibility to do their bit to minimise their impact.

The 48 plants in this pamphlet have been declared "pest plants" in the Wellington region under the Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) developed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council. Greater Wellington believes that these plants require intervention to minimise their spread within the region and it is of benefit to the region to do so.

They are either controlled by Greater Wellington or have requirements by landowners. You can play your part by keeping an eye out for Total Control and Regional Surveillance pest plants and getting rid of weedy plants from your land.

These pest plants are grouped into four categories:

- TC Total Control:** Greater Wellington is responsible for controlling these plants region-wide and is interested in finding new sites.
- RS Regional Surveillance:** Greater Wellington is interested in finding new sites of these species to learn more about their impact on our region.
- C Containment:** Greater Wellington is responsible for controlling these plants in certain areas of the region where they are a risk to the environment.
- SL Site-Led Human Health and Boundary Control:** These plants must be cleared by landowners back to specified distances from a neighbouring property when a complaint is made to Greater Wellington.

Contributing photographers: Jonathan Boow (ARC), Paul Champion (NIWA), Craig Davey (Horizons), DoC (West Coast), Trevor James, Shona Lamoureaux, Carolyn Lewis, Heidi Pene (NIWA), Tim Senior (EBOP).

Though every effort has been made to provide accurate information, Greater Wellington takes no responsibility for information that is incorrect.

Greater Wellington
0800 496 734
pest.plants@gw.govt.nz
www.gw.govt.nz



www.weedbusters.co.nz

total control

Greater Wellington will control any of these
Total Control pest plants on your land for free.
If you see them, call us. 0800 496 734



African feathergrass
Pennisetum macrourum

(Grass) **Identify:** Leaves rough to touch. Long seedheads.

Max height: 2 metres.

Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area. Competes with native plants.



Bathurst bur
Xanthium spinosum

(Herb) **Identify:** Leaves can be green or blue-green.

Small hard oval burs covered in hooks.

Max height: 1 metre.

Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area. Burs contaminate fleeces and crops.



Blue passionflower
Passiflora caerulea

(Vine) **Identify:** Leaves can be green or blue-green. Round orange fruit.

Max height: 10 metres.

Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Climbing spindleberry
Celastrus orbiculatus

(Vine) **Identify:** Yellow or red berries. Deciduous.

Max height: 12 metres.

Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.

Seen it? Call us! 0800 496 734



Eelgrass
Vallisneria spiralis and
V. gigantea

Aquatic (freshwater)
Identify: Submerged. Leaves may be green, brown or yellow and slippery to touch.
Max height: Can grow up to 9 metres below water.
Impact: Suppresses native wetland plant growth. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Madeira vine
Anredera cordifolia

(Vine) Identify: Brown, fleshy tubers produced on plant stems and under ground. Flowers are small, creamy white, fragrant and hang in clusters.
Max height: 20 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Manchurian wild rice
Zizania latifolia

Marginal aquatic (fresh or salt water)
Identify: Seedhead is red-brown and spear shaped.
Max height: 4 metres.
Impact: Suppresses native wetland plant growth. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Moth plant
Araujia sericifera

(Vine) Identify: Exudes white sticky sap. May be seedlings beneath plant.
Max height: 6 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration. Some people are allergic to sap.



Perennial nettle
Urtica dioica and subsp

(Herb) Identify: Heart-shaped leaves with sharp-toothed edges. Covered with stinging hairs.
Max height: 1.5 metres.
Impact: Unpalatable to livestock, reducing grazing area.



Saffron thistle
Carthamus lanatus

(Thistle) Identify: Covered in sharp spines.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Woolly nightshade
Solanum mauritianum

(Tree) Identify: Greyish-green leaves. Purple flowers with yellow centre. Furry to touch. Smells similar to turpentine.
Max height: 10 metres.
Impact: Suppresses native plants. Poisonous to livestock.

regional surveillance

We need to know where these Regional Surveillance pest plants are so we can monitor them for any future control work. If you see them, call us. 0800 496 734



African fountain grass
Pennisetum setaceum

(Grass) Identify: Leaves are fine and rough to touch.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area. Competes with native plants.



Alligator weed
Alternanthera philoxeroides

Marginal aquatic (fresh or salt water)
Identify: White clover-like flowers. Red, hollow stems.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Suppresses growth of native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Apple of Sodom
Solanum linnaeanum

(Shrub) Identify: Covered in small spikes.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Asiatic knotweed
Reynoutria japonica
and hybrids

(Herb) Identify: Zigzag-shaped stems attached to hollow purple-speckled stalks. White drooping flowers. Dies down in winter.
Max height: 3 metres.
Impact: Shades and crowds all other native plants.



Australian sedge
Carex longibrachiata

(Grass) Identify: Long arching leaves, Y-shaped in cross section. Long branching seedheads.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Bomarea
Bomarea caldasii, *B. multiflora*

(Vine) Identify: Flowers are yellow-to-red drooping trumpet clusters with red berries.
Max height: 10 metres.
Impact: Smothers plants in native ecosystems suppressing growth and regeneration.



California arrowhead
Sagittaria montevidensis

Marginal aquatic (fresh or salt water)
Identify: Large, glossy arrow-shaped leaves. White flowers with purple blotches.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Suppresses native plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.



California bulrush
Schoenoplectus californicus

Marginal aquatic (salt water)
Identify: Bright green stems, usually triangular.
Max height: 2 metres.
Impact: Suppresses native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.

All pest plant control work will be at no direct cost to landowners

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Chilean flamecreeper
Tropaeolum speciosum

(Vine) Identify: Blue berries and delicate leaves.
Max height: 10 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Chilean needle grass
Nassella neesiana

(Grass) Identify: Sharp pointed seeds. Rough to touch.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area. Sharp seeds injure livestock.



Chinese pennisetum
Pennisetum alopecuroides

(Grass) Identify: Long wiry leaves. Seed heads are upright purplish brushes.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Chocolate vine
Akebia quinata

(Vine) Identify: Maroon flowers. Chocolate or vanilla scented.
Max height: 10 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Delta arrowhead
Sagittaria platyphylla

Marginal aquatic (freshwater) Identify: White flowers on spikes.
Max height: 80cm.
Impact: Suppresses native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Giant knotweed
Reynoutria sachalinensis and hybrids

(Herb) Identify: Zigzag-shaped stems attached to hollow purple-speckled stalks. White drooping flowers. Dies down in winter.
Max height: 4 metres
Impact: Forms dense stands, shading and crowding other vegetation.



Hawaiian arrowhead
Sagittaria sagittifolia

Marginal aquatic (freshwater) Identify: Glossy leaves. Flowers have three large white petals with purple blotch at base.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Suppresses native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Houttuynia
Houttuynia cordata

(Groundcover) Identify: Leaves mostly cream, bronze, scarlet and green, but may be plain green and heart shaped. Peppery smell when crushed. Deciduous, creeping.
Max height: 60cm
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.

...Regional Surveillance continued



Nassella tussock
Nassella trichotoma

(Grass) Identify: Fine and wiry leaves with serrated edges. Seedheads have purple tinge and may lie on ground.

Max height: 1 metre.

Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Noogoora bur
Xanthium occidentale

(Herb) Identify: Leaves furry to touch. Hard oval burs covered in hooks. Woody and branching.

Max height: 1.5 metres.

Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area. Burs contaminate fleeces and crops.



Polypodium
Polypodium vulgare

(Fern) Identify: Leathery leaves with many blades deeply cut to main axis. Bumpy dots both sides of leaves.

Max height: 25cm.

Impact: Suppresses native plants in grasslands.



Purple loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria

(Herb) Identify: Square-shaped stems.

Max height: 3 metres.

Impact: Suppresses native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Senegal tea
Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

Marginal aquatic (freshwater)

Identify: Waxy leaves on hollow stems.

Max height: 1.5 metres.

Impact: Suppresses native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.



Spartina
Spartina spp.

Marginal aquatic (freshwater/saltwater)

Identify: Clump-forming grass.

Max height: 1 metre.

Impact: Suppresses native plants in estuarine and coastal ecosystems. Blocks watercourses and drains.



White edged nightshade
Solanum marginatum

(Shrub) Identify: Covered in spikes. Leaf undersides are white. Tomato-like fruits.

Max height: 5 metres.

Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.

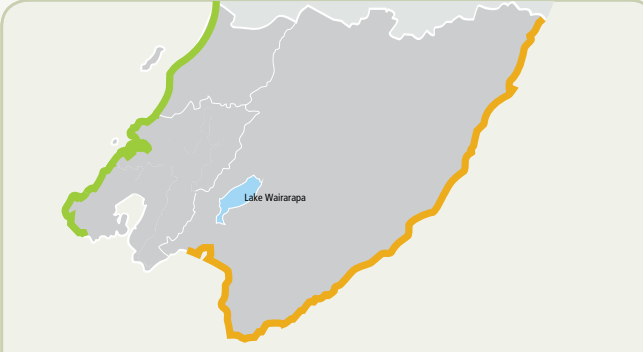

All pest plant control work will be at no direct cost to landowners

containment

We will control containment pest plants in the areas marked on the maps below. Any questions call us 0800 496 734.

■ (distance 1.5km) = selected control in areas of high ecological value

■ (distance 1.5km) = total control in this area

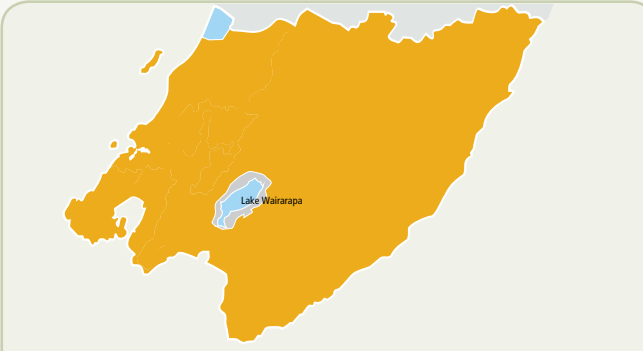

Boneseed
Chrysanthemoides monilifera

(Shrub) Identify: Grey-green leaves.
Max height: 3 metres.
Impact: Suppresses native plants in coastal ecosystems.




Evergreen buckthorn
Rhamnus alaternus

(Tree) Identify: Glossy leaves. Red berries.
Max height: 10 metres.
Impact: Suppresses plants in a wide range of native ecosystems.

Hornwort
Ceratophyllum demersum

(Aquatic) Identify: Submerged. Needle-like leaves.
Max height: 10 metres.
Impact: Suppresses native wetland plants. Blocks watercourses and drains.




Sweet pea shrub
Polygala myrtifolia

(Shrub) Identify: Flowers have pink-purple petals. White middle petal has tuft of white hairs.
Max height: 2 metres.
Impact: Suppresses native plants in coastal ecosystems.

There are 2 types – Human Health and Boundary Control. “Clearance” distances are the distance from a neighbouring property that a landowner must clear the plants after a complaint is made

site-led

human health and boundary control

These plants must be cleared by landowners back to specified distances from a neighbouring property when a complaint is made to Greater Wellington (Conditions apply)



Banana passionfruit
Passiflora mixta,
P. mollissima, *P. tripartita* *

Boundary control
Clearance: 10 metres

(Vine) Identify:
Yellow oblong fruits.
Max height: 20 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Cathedral bells
Cobaea scandens *

Boundary control
Clearance: 10 metres

(Vine) Identify:
White or purple flowers, followed by small green pods.
Max height: 20 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Gorse
Ulex europaeus

Boundary control
Clearance: 10 metres

Human health
Clearance: 2 metres

(Shrub) Identify:
Woody, spiky shrub.
Max height: 2 metres.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Nodding thistle
Carduus nutans

Boundary control
Clearance: 50 metres

(Thistle) Identify:
Distinctive scarlet-coloured “nodding” seedheads.
Max height: 1 metre.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Old man's beard
Clematis vitalba *

Boundary control
Clearance: 10 metres

(Vine) Identify:
Five-fingered leaflets. Cream-coloured flowers and fluffy seeds.
Max height: 20 metres.
Impact: Smothers native plants, suppressing growth and regeneration.



Ragwort
Senecio jacobaea

Boundary control
Clearance: 50 metres

(Herb) Identify:
Wavy, deeply lobed leaves. Yellow flowers.
Max height: 1.2 metres.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing area.



Variegated thistle
Silybum marianum

Boundary control
Clearance: 20 metres

(Herb) Identify:
Large, glossy leaves with mottled white markings.
Max height: 2 metres.
Impact: Competes with pasture species, reducing livestock grazing.



Wild ginger
Hedychium gardnerianum,
H. flavescens

Boundary control
Clearance: 10 metres

(Herb) Identify:
Upright stems, shiny leaves, cream-to-yellow flowers.
Max height: 2 metres
Impact: Shades and crowds out all other native vegetation.



Blackberry
Rubus spp.
(barbed cultivars)

Human health
Clearance: 2 metres

(Vine) Identify:
White or pink flowers.
Max height: 3 metres.
Impact: Barbs can injure skin and eyes.



Hemlock
Conium maculatum

Human health
Clearance: 2 metres

(Herb) Identify:
Hollow stems.
Max height: 2 metres.
Impact: Poisonous if eaten.

* Total Control rules apply within the Hutt City territorial authority boundary only