

The logo features a green background with a faint, stylized plant motif of overlapping circles and lines. A vertical white line is on the left. The text is arranged in four lines: 'National' in white, 'PEST' in large yellow-outlined letters, 'PLANT' in large yellow-outlined letters, and 'ACCORD' in dark blue. A yellow banner at the bottom right contains the year '2008' in white.

National  
PEST  
PLANT  
ACCORD

2008

## Introduction

This manual contains photographs and descriptions of plants that are considered pests throughout New Zealand. All of these plants are present in New Zealand, and are banned from sale, propagation and distribution.

The information included in this manual is correct at the time of printing (September 2008) and will be updated on a regular basis. If you wish to receive updates to the manual as they become available, please e-mail [nppa@maf.govt.nz](mailto:nppa@maf.govt.nz)

A full copy of the NPPA booklet and updates can be viewed at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa>

Further information on plants may be found on the Weedbusters website <http://weedbusters.co.nz>

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## Key for plant types



Aquatic Plant



Herb



Marginal Aquatic Plant



Shrub



Fern / Fern Ally



Tree



Grass

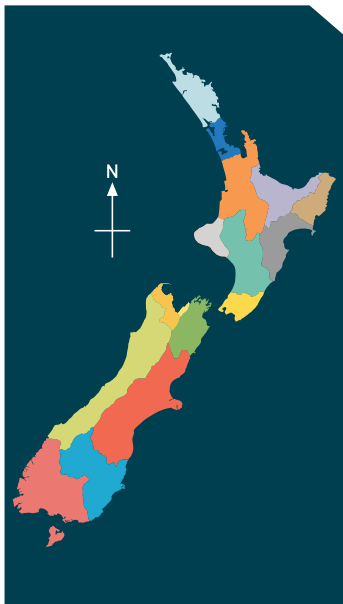


Vine



Ground Cover

## Regional councils and unitary authorities by region



New Zealand regional map

	Northland	TEL (09) 438 4639	<a href="http://www.nrc.govt.nz">www.nrc.govt.nz</a>
	Auckland	TEL (09) 366 2000	<a href="http://www.arc.govt.nz">www.arc.govt.nz</a>
	Waikato	TEL 0800 800 401	<a href="http://www.ew.govt.nz">www.ew.govt.nz</a>
	Bay of Plenty	TEL 0800 368 267	<a href="http://www.envbop.govt.nz">www.envbop.govt.nz</a>
	Gisborne	TEL (06) 867 2049	<a href="http://www.gdc.govt.nz">www.gdc.govt.nz</a>
	Taranaki	TEL (06) 765 7127	<a href="http://www.trc.govt.nz">www.trc.govt.nz</a>
	Hawkes Bay	TEL (06) 835 9200	<a href="http://www.hbrc.govt.nz">www.hbrc.govt.nz</a>
	Manawatu	TEL 0508 446 749	<a href="http://www.horizons.govt.nz">www.horizons.govt.nz</a>
	Wellington	TEL (04) 384 5708	<a href="http://www.gw.govt.nz">www.gw.govt.nz</a>
	Tasman	TEL (03) 543 8400	<a href="http://www.tdc.govt.nz">www.tdc.govt.nz</a>
	Nelson	TEL (03) 546 0200	<a href="http://www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz">www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz</a>
	Marlborough	TEL (03) 578 5249	<a href="http://www.marlborough.govt.nz">www.marlborough.govt.nz</a>
	West Coast	TEL 0508 800 118	<a href="http://www.wcrc.govt.nz">www.wcrc.govt.nz</a>
	Canterbury	TEL 0800 324 636	<a href="http://www.ecan.govt.nz">www.ecan.govt.nz</a>
	Otago	TEL 0800 474 082	<a href="http://www.orc.govt.nz">www.orc.govt.nz</a>
	Southland	TEL 0800 768 845	<a href="http://www.envirosouth.govt.nz">www.envirosouth.govt.nz</a>

## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Scientific Name (A-E)

<i>Acmena smithii</i>	monkey apple
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	tree of heaven
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	akebia, chocolate vine, five-leaved akebia
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	alligator weed, pigweed
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	madeira vine, mignonette vine
<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	mothplant, cruel plant, white bladder flower
<i>Aristea ecklonii</i>	aristea, wild iris, blue iris
<i>Arundo donax</i>	giant reed, arundo grass
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	smilax, bridal creeper
<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>	bushy asparagus, fern asparagus, emerald feather, Sprenger fern, Sprenger's asparagus, foxtail fern, possum tail
<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	climbing asparagus
<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	Darwin's barberry
<i>Bomarea caldasii</i> , <i>B. multiflora</i>	bomarea, climbing alstromeria
<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	white bryony
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (excluding double flowered cultivars)	heather, ling
<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>	balloon vine
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	small balloon vine
<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> and hybrids	iceplant
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	climbing spindle berry, Oriental bittersweet
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	hornwort, coontail

<i>Cestrum parqui</i>	green cestrum
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	boneseed
<i>Clematis flammula</i>	clematis, fragrant virgin's bower, plume clematis
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	old man's beard
<i>Cobaea scandens</i>	cathedral bells
<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	purple pampas
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	pampas
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Khasia berry
<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i>	pig's ear
<i>Crassula multicava</i>	fairy crassula
<i>Cyathea cooperii</i>	Australian tree fern, lacy tree fern
<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>	mile-a-minute
<i>Drosera capensis</i>	Cape sundew
<i>Ecchreocarpus scaber</i>	Chilean glory creeper, Chilean glory vine, glory vine, Chilean glory flower
<i>Egeria densa</i>	egeria, oxygen weed, Brazilian elodea
<i>Ehrharta villosa</i>	pyp grass
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	water hyacinth
<i>Eomecon chionantha</i>	snow poppy, poppy of the dawn, Chinese bloodroot
<i>Equisetum</i> (all species)	horsetail
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	African love grass
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican daisy
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Japanese spindle tree

## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Scientific Name (F-P)

<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson fig
<i>Fuchsia boliviana</i>	Bolivian fuchsia
<i>Galeobdolon luteum</i>	artillery plant, aluminium plant
<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	Chilean rhubarb
<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	Senegal tea, temple plant, costata
<i>Hedychium flavescens</i>	yellow ginger
<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>	Kahili ginger
<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	giant hogweed, wild rhubarb, cartwheel flower, wild parsnip
<i>Hieracium</i> (all species)	hawkweed
<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	Queensland poplar, bleeding heart tree, poplar leaved omalanthus
<i>Homeria collina</i>	Cape tulip
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	chameleon plant
<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	hydrilla
<i>Hydrocleys nymphoides</i>	water poppy
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	tutsan, sweet amber
<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	blue morning glory
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	yellow flag iris
<i>Jasminum humile</i>	Italian jasmine
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	lagarosiphon, oxygen weed
<i>Lantana camara</i>	lantana
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	tree privet
<i>Lilium formosanum</i>	Formosa lily, trumpet lily, St Joseph's lily, Taiwan lily

<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Japanese honeysuckle
<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> <i>Montevidensis</i>	primrose willow, floating primrose willow, water primrose subsp.
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife
<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>	cat's claw creeper, cat's claw vine, cat's claw ivy, yellow trumpet vine
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	bogbean
<i>Myoporum insulare</i> and hybrids	Tasmanian ngaio, boobialla
<i>Myrica faya</i>	fire tree, candle berry myrtle
<i>Myricaria germanica</i>	false tamarisk
<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	parrot's feather, thread of life, Brazilian watermilfoil
<i>Nassella</i> (all species)	nassella
<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>	tuber ladder fern
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	yellow waterlily, spatterdock, cow lily, brandybottle
<i>Nymphaea mexicana</i>	Mexican waterlily, banana waterlily
<i>Nymphoides geminata</i>	marshwort, entire marshwort
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	fringed waterlily
<i>Ochna serrulata</i>	Mickey Mouse plant
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	royal fern
<i>Panicum maximum</i>	Guinea grass, green panic, buffalo grass
<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	blue passion flower
<i>Passiflora tarminiana</i>	Northern banana passionfruit

## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Scientific Name (P-Z)

<i>Passiflora tripartita</i> (all subspecies)	banana passionfruit	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	sagittaria, delta arrowhead
<i>Pennisetum (all species)</i>	pennisetum	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	arrowhead, Hawaiian arrowhead
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	phragmites	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	grey willow, pussy willow, grey sallow
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	lodgepole pine, contorta pine	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	crack willow
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	water lettuce	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	salvinia, Kariba weed
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	sweet pittosporum, Victorian box, Australian cheesewood, New Zealand daphne	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Christmas berry, Brazilian pepper tree
<i>Plectranthus ciliatus</i>	plectranthus, blue spur flower	<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>	Californian bulrush
<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	sweet pea shrub, sweet pea bush, myrtle leaf milkwort	<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>	African club moss, selaginella
<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	clasped pondweed	<i>Solanum marginatum</i>	white edged nightshade
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	rum cherry, wild black cherry, mountain black cherry, black cherry	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	woolly nightshade, tobacco weed, wild tobacco tree
<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	firethorn, orange firethorn, yellow firethorn	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	wandering Jew
<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> and hybrids	Asiatic knotweed, Japanese knotweed, Mexican bamboo	<i>Tropaeolum speciosum</i>	Chilean flame creeper
<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> and hybrids	giant knotweed	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	coltsfoot
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	rhamnus, evergreen buckthorn	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	great reedmace, cumbungi, common cattail
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Wild rhododendron, pontic rhododendron, pontian rhododendron	<i>Utricularia arenaria</i>	bladderwort
<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i>	arrowhead, sagittaria, Californian arrowhead	<i>Utricularia gibba</i>	bladderwort, humped bladderwort
		<i>Utricularia livida</i>	bladderwort
		<i>Utricularia sandersonii</i>	bladderwort
		<i>Vallisneria gigantea</i>	eelgrass
		<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i>	eelgrass
		<i>Zantedeschia green goddess</i>	green goddess
		<i>Zizania latifolia</i>	Manchurian wild rice, Manchurian rice grass

## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Common Name (A-C)

African club moss	<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>	blue spur flower	<i>Plectranthus ciliatus</i>
African love grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	bogbean	<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>
akebia	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Bolivian fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia boliviana</i>
alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	bomarea, climbing alstromeria	<i>Bomarea caldasii</i> , <i>B. multiflora</i>
aluminium plant	<i>Galeobdolon luteum</i>	boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
aristea	<i>Aristea ecklonii</i>	boobiolla	<i>Myoporum insulare</i> and hybrids
arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	brandybottle	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i>	Brazilian elodea	<i>Egeria densa</i>
artillery plant	<i>Galeobdolon luteum</i>	Brazilian pepper tree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
arundo grass	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Brazilian watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
Asiatic knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> and hybrids	bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Australian cheesewood	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	buffalo grass	<i>Panicum maximum</i>
Australian tree fern, lacy tree fern	<i>Cyathea cooperii</i>	bushy asparagus	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>
balloon vine	<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>	Californian arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i>
banana passionfruit	<i>Passiflora tripartita</i> (all subspecies)	Californian bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>
banana waterlily	<i>Nymphaea mexicana</i>	candle berry myrtle	<i>Myrica faya</i>
bladderwort	<i>Utricularia arenaria</i>	Cape sundew	<i>Drosera capensis</i>
bladderwort	<i>Utricularia livida</i>	Cape tulip	<i>Homeria collina</i>
bladderwort	<i>Utricularia sandersonii</i>	cartwheel flower	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
bladderwort	<i>Utricularia gibba</i>	cathedral bells	<i>Cobaea scandens</i>
bleeding heart tree	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	cat's claw creeper, cat's claw vine,	<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>
blue iris	<i>Aristea ecklonii</i>	cat's claw ivy	
blue morning glory	<i>Ipomoea indica</i>	chameleon plant	<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>
blue passion flower	<i>Passiflora caerulea</i>	clematis, fragrant virgin's bower,	<i>Clematis flammula</i>
		plume clematis	



## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Common Name (C-H)

Chilean flame creeper	<i>Tropaeolum speciosum</i>	evergreen buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
Chilean glory creeper, Chilean glory vine, glory vine, Chilean glory flower	<i>Eccremocarpus scaber</i>	fairy crassula	<i>Crassula multicava</i>
Chilean rhubarb	<i>Gunnera tinctoria</i>	false tamarisk	<i>Myricaria germanica</i>
Chinese bloodroot	<i>Eomecon chionantha</i>	fern asparagus	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>
chocolate vine	<i>Akebia quinata</i>	fire tree	<i>Myrica faya</i>
Christmas berry	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	firethorn, orange firethorn, yellow firethorn	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>
clasped pondweed	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	five-leaved akebia	<i>Akebia quinata</i>
climbing asparagus	<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	Formosa lily	<i>Lilium formosanum</i>
climbing spindle berry	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	foxtail fern	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>
coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	fringed waterlily	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>
common cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
contorta pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	giant knotweed	<i>Reynoutria sachalinensis</i> and hybrids
coontail	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>
costata	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	great reedmace	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
cow lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	green cestrum	<i>Cestrum parqui</i>
crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	green goddess	<i>Zantedeschia green goddess</i>
cruel plant	<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	green panic	<i>Panicum maximum</i>
cumbungi	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	grey willow, grey sallow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
Darwin's barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>	Guinea grass	<i>Panicum maximum</i>
delta arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	Hawaiian arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>
eelgrass	<i>Vallisneria gigantea</i>	hawkweed	<i>Hieracium</i> (all species)
eelgrass	<i>Vallisneria spiralis</i>	heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
egeria	<i>Egeria densa</i>	hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>
emerald feather	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>	horsetail	<i>Equisetum</i> (all species)
		humped bladderwort	<i>Utricularia gibba</i>

## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Common Name (H-P)

hydrilla	<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>	myrtle-leaf milkwort	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>
iceplant	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> and hybrids	nassella	<i>Nassella</i> (all species)
Italian jasmine	<i>Jasminum humile</i>	New Zealand daphne	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
Japanese honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Northern banana passionfruit	<i>Passiflora tarminiana</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> and hybrids	old man's beard	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>
Japanese spindle tree	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Kahili ginger	<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>	oxygen weed	<i>Egeria densa</i>
Kariba weed	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	oxygen weed	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>
Khasia berry	<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	pampas	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	parrot's feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>
lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	pennisetum	<i>Pennisetum</i> (all species)
ling	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
lodgepole pine	<i>Pinus contorta</i>	pig's ear	<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i>
madeira vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	pigweed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
Manchurian wild rice, Manchurian rice grass	<i>Zizania latifolia</i>	plectranthus	<i>Plectranthus ciliatus</i>
marshwort, entire marshwort	<i>Nymphoides geminata</i>	poplar leaved omalanthus	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>
Mexican bamboo	<i>Reynoutria japonica</i> and hybrids	poppy of the dawn	<i>Eomecon chionantha</i>
Mexican daisy	<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Port Jackson fig	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>
Mexican waterlily	<i>Nymphaea mexicana</i>	possum tail	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>
Mickey Mouse plant	<i>Ochna serrulata</i>	primrose willow, floating primrose	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> subsp
mignonette vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	willow	<i>Montevidensis</i>
mile-a-minute	<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>	purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
monkey apple	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	purple pampas	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>
mothplant	<i>Araujia sericifera</i>	pussy willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
		pyp grass	<i>Ehrharta villosa</i>

## National Pest Plant Accord List · by Common Name (Q-Z)

Queensland poplar	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	tree privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
rhamnus	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	trumpet lily	<i>Lilium formosanum</i>
royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	tuber ladder fern	<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>
rum cherry, wild black cherry, mountain black cherry, black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>
sagittaria	<i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i>	Victorian box	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
sagittaria	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>
salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>
selaginella	<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>	water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>
Senegal tea	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	water poppy	<i>Hydrocleys nymphoides</i>
small balloon vine	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	water primrose	<i>Ludwigia peploides</i> subsp. <i>Montevidensis</i>
smilax	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	white bladder flower	<i>Araujia sericifera</i>
snow poppy	<i>Eomecon chionantha</i>	white bryony	<i>Bryonia cretica</i>
spatterdock	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	white edged nightshade	<i>Solanum marginatum</i>
Sprengeri fern, Sprenger's asparagus	<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i>	wild iris	<i>Aristea ecklonii</i>
St Joseph's lily	<i>Lilium formosanum</i>	wild parsnip	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
sweet amber	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Wild rhododendron, pontic rhododendron, pontian rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>
sweet pea shrub, sweet pea bush	<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>	wild rhubarb	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
sweet pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	wild tobacco tree	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>
Taiwan lily	<i>Lilium formosanum</i>	woolly nightshade	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>
Tasmanian ngaio	<i>Myoporum insulare</i> and hybrids	yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
temple plant	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	yellow ginger	<i>Hedychium flavescens</i>
thread of life	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	yellow trumpet vine	<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>
tobacco weed	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	yellow waterlily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
tree of heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>		

## *Acmena smithii* · monkey apple



Tree



**SYNONYMS** · *Eugenia smithii*, *Syzygium smithii*

**DESCRIPTION** · Monkey apple is a tree, 6-20 m tall, which grows in forest, scrub and shrub-lands. It has glossy oval leaves which are aromatic when crushed, whitish flowers, and berry-like fruit that are white or pink-mauve.

**IMPACT** · Birds disperse the abundant seed, spreading it into nearby native forest. Seedlings are shade-tolerant and form dense carpets. They can grow rapidly into long-lived canopy trees, outcompeting native trees.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Ailanthus altissima* · tree of heaven



Tree



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Tree of heaven is a fast-growing deciduous tree. It has compound leaves composed of smaller alternating leaflets, and yellow-green flowers. All parts of the tree have an odour that is similar to peanuts or cashews.

**IMPACT** · Tree of heaven is a prolific seed producer that grows rapidly. It has an aggressive root system and produces toxins that prevent other plant species establishing.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Akebia quinata* · Akebia, chocolate vine, five-leaved akebia



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Rajania quinata*

**DESCRIPTION** · Akebia is a twining vine or ground cover, with leaves of five oval shaped leaflets (3 cm) which meet at a central juncture. It has chocolate-purple coloured flowers, which have an odour that is similar to chocolate or vanilla, and appear from August to October in New Zealand.

**IMPACT** · Akebia can form dense patches which outcompete and kill ground cover and shrubs/young trees. Birds can spread the seeds, but mostly this plant is spread by human activity.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and the responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Alternanthera philoxeroides* · alligator weed, pigweed



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Lewis

**SYNONYMS** · *Telanthera philoxeroides*

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a perennial aquatic or terrestrial herb with dark-green waxy leaves in opposite pairs. Stems are hollow and often reddish in colour. White clover-like flower clusters, 1-2 cm in diameter, appear during summer.

**IMPACT** · Alligator weed forms extensive floating mats. These outcompete other species and block waterways, causing silt accumulation, flooding and degradation of habitat for aquatic flora and fauna. Alligator weed is also invasive in terrestrial areas affecting crops and pasture. It is toxic to livestock.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control. This plant is widespread in Northland and Auckland, but rare or absent elsewhere.

## *Anredera cordifolia* · madeira vine, mignonette vine



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Boussingaultia cordifolia*

**DESCRIPTION** · Madeira vine is a perennial hairless vine with fleshy rhizomes and slender reddish stems with small aerial tubers. It has heart-shaped leaves (2-11 x 2-10 cm) which are glossy and arranged alternately on the stems. It produces slender drooping flower heads (18 cm long) of small fragrant cream flowers from January to April. Seeds are not produced.

**IMPACT** · This vine forms heavy long-lived masses that dominate medium to high canopy. It tolerates a wide range of conditions. Although no seeds are produced, it spreads via the aerial tubers.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Araujia sericifera* · mothplant



**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · cruel plant, white bladder flower

**SYNONYMS** · Araujia hortorum

**DESCRIPTION** · This is an evergreen vine that grows to 10 m tall with pungent, milky sap and down stems which are woody near the base. It has dark-green leaves (3-12 x 2-6 cm) which are hairless and dull on the top, greyish-downy underneath and arranged alternately on the stems. Clusters of 2-4 bell-shaped white flowers (20-25 mm in diameter), occasionally with pink streaks, appear from December to May, followed by thick choko-like pods (10 x 7 cm) which contain hundreds of black thistledown-like seeds.

**IMPACT** · Mothplant produces abundant wind-dispersed seeds. It is long-lived, fast-growing and shade-tolerant, forming dense, heavy, smothering masses that overtop and strangle supporting plants. It invades intact or disturbed forest and is poisonous, with the sap also being a skin irritant. Mothplant has a very wide environmental tolerance, with frost the main limiting factor.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Aristea ecklonii* · Aristea, wild iris, blue iris



Herb



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Aristea is a perennial with stiff, upright, iris-like leaves that grow in clumps up to 70 cm tall. In spring, dozens of small blue flowers are produced, which then turn into seed capsules 2cm long containing flat dark brown seeds.

**IMPACT** · Aristea tolerates a wide variety of conditions. It spreads by seeds and also by division of the rooted clumps. It can form dense stands, displacing other species and opening canopy to invasion from other weeds.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and the responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Arundo donax* · giant reed, arundo grass



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Giant reed is a clump-forming bamboo-like grass with a dense root mass and short rhizomes. It can grow up to 5 m in height. Hollow stems, up to 4 cm across, are initially erect but become semi-lax over time. Bluish-white (occasionally white-striped) bamboo-like leaves (30-90 x 5 cm) with parallel veins are arranged alternately, clasping the stems. A plume-like flowerhead is produced at the top of the stem in late summer.

**IMPACT** · This grass forms tall dense clumps, usually on wasteland, but is a potential weed of river and stream margins that can block waterways, promoting flooding. It provides a habitat for rats and possums, and poses a fire risk.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Asparagus asparagoides* · smilax, bridal creeper



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Lewis

**SYNONYMS** · *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*

**DESCRIPTION** · Smilax is a scrambling or twining perennial with dense clusters of white tuberous roots and thin-branched green stems to 3 m. The true leaves are inconspicuous, but it has ovalish pointed cladodes which resemble leaves (10-35 x 4-15 mm) scattered along the stem. Greenish-white flowers (5-6 mm) appear from July to August, followed by round red berries (6-10 mm) each containing 2-8 tiny black seeds.

**IMPACT** · Smilax has tough wiry stems and a smothering growth habit. It has long-lived tubers that resprout following control, making it a difficult species to kill. The seeds are dispersed by birds. Smilax is a serious weed in Australia, where it is known as bridal creeper.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Asparagus densiflorus* · bushy asparagus (excluding cultivar “Myersii”)



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · fern asparagus, emerald feather, Sprenger fern, Sprenger’s asparagus, foxtail fern, possum tail

**SYNONYMS** · *A. aethiopicus*

**DESCRIPTION** · Two growth forms are known: (1) cultivar “Sprenger” is a trailing scrambler with stems that are branched towards tips, and sparse cladodes (flattened leaf-like stems, 10-25 mm) that are flat in cross section; (2) cultivar “Meyeri” has erect stems to 700 mm forming a dense cylinder, and is covered in cladodes (5-10 mm) that are triangular in cross section. Both cultivars have small tubers, thin wiry stems, tiny pinkish flowers and bright red berries.

**IMPACT** · Bushy asparagus forms dense patches, is tough and has long-lived tubers that resprout.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Asparagus scandens* · climbing asparagus



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Myrsiphyllum scandens*

**DESCRIPTION** · This vine is a scrambling or climbing perennial with tuberous roots, and green, thin, wiry stems (2-4 m long) that are branched at the top. The true leaves are inconspicuous, but it has flat cladodes (5-15 mm x 1-1.5 mm) that are leaf-like (resembling miro). These are usually in groups of three at each node. Tiny whitish flowers appear from September to December, and are followed from October to February by round berries (8 mm in diameter) that ripen from green to yellow.

**IMPACT** · Climbing asparagus forms dense patches on the ground or sub-canopy in most forest types. The combination of wiry stems and dense foliage smothers small plants. It has tough long-lived tubers that resprout easily, a moderate growth rate and well-dispersed seeds.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Berberis darwinii* · Darwin's barberry



Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · This is an evergreen shrub that grows up to 4 m high. It has small clusters of dark-green leaves (each up to 3 cm long) with spiny edges and five short sharp spines below each group of leaves. Small yellow-orange flowers are produced in small clusters from September through to February, and are followed by hanging groups of purple-black berries with a white bloom on the surface.

**IMPACT** · Birds eat the berries and spread the seeds of this plant. It can invade native bush and replace native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation & Trevor James



*Bomarea caldasii*, *B. multiflora* · bomarea, climbing alstromeria



Vine



**DESCRIPTION** · The two species of bomarea are similar and are difficult to distinguish. Both are tuberous-rooted vines with thin, pale green, elongated and pointed leaves. They produce trumpet-shaped flowers in dense drooping clusters of 15-20 or more; flowers are tinged red on the outside, and bright yellow with red spots on the inside. Flowering is mainly in the spring or summer. The fruit is a capsule that ripens and splits to reveal bright orange/red fleshy seeds.

**IMPACT** · If uncontrolled, bomarea can smother and destroy garden plants. It also invades remnant forest and shrubland interiors, with the vines growing into the tree canopy forming large masses which overtop and smother the supporting trees. Extensive infestation in the tree canopy can alter light levels, damage trees and prevent the establishment of native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Bryonia cretica* · white bryony



Photos courtesy of Jaap Knegtmans and Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Bryonia cretica* subsp. *dioica*

**DESCRIPTION** · White bryony is a soft green cucumber like vine that climbs up to 6 m by means of its curled tendrils. It produces clusters of small cream white flowers in spring/summer, with male and female flowers on separate plants. On female plants these are followed by 8 mm berries, in bunches of 3-8 that ripen to light red from January to April. The shoots die back in autumn to a persistent perennial tuber.

**IMPACT** · White bryony smothers and shades out whatever it grows on. It is dispersed by birds and its tubers are hard to find. The fruit and tubers contain toxic alkaloids, which may be poisonous if consumed in quantity. White bryony is of very limited distribution in the wild in New Zealand.

**WHAT TO DO** · If you find this plant contact  
**MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.**

## *Calluna vulgaris* · heather, ling (excluding double flowered cultivars)



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Heather is an evergreen plant that can grow up to 60 cm high. Its leaves are tiny and are arranged in four rows. Individual flowers are small, purple or pink, and arranged in dense spikes produced between December and March. Although individual flowers are small, groups of plants can make a colourful display. The fruit capsule breaks open to disperse seeds.

**IMPACT** · This plant tolerates cold, some shade and poor soils. In some parts of New Zealand (for example National Park) it is an invasive weed of tussock grasslands.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* · balloon vine



Vine



Photo courtesy of G. D. Carr, Dept of Botany, University of Hawaii

**DESCRIPTION** · Balloon vine is a perennial climber. Its name comes from the light-green thin-walled papery 4-8 cm long inflated capsule containing three black seeds. The light-green leaves are divided into three sets of three leaflets. White four-petaled flowers occur throughout the year.

**IMPACT** · The fruits are carried by wind or water. The plant grows in moist areas along river edges, forest margins and road edges. It can climb up to 10 m high, smother taller vegetation and shade small plants.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Cardiospermum halicacabum* · small balloon vine



Photo courtesy of J. Manhart, Herbarium, Dept of Biology, Texas A & M University

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a smaller version of balloon vine, growing up to 3 m high. Each leaf has three coarsely toothed leaflets. The flowers are minute (3 mm across) and greenish-white in colour. Flowers are followed by 2 cm papery inflated fruits like a three-sided balloon containing black seeds, each with a pale heart-shaped mark. This vine has a pair of tendrils in each flower cluster.

**IMPACT** · This plant thrives in full sun and well-drained soil. Small balloon vine can climb over and smother other plants.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## Carpobrotus edulis and hybrids · iceplant



Ground Cover



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Iceplant is a low-growing perennial with fleshy succulent leaves 7-12 cm long. Large (up to 10 cm diameter) many-petalled yellow flowers can be produced year-round but are most common from October to February. Flowers are followed by fleshy fruit. Hybrid plants are slightly smaller with pink, orange, yellow or whitish flowers. Hybrid plants do not form seeds but spread by stem fragments.

**IMPACT** · Iceplant forms mats over sand dunes and open areas, displacing other vegetation. It can also change the structure of sand dunes. The South African iceplant species (*Carpobrotus edulis*) hybridises with and replaces the much smaller pink-flowered native iceplant (*Disphyma australe*).

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Celastrus orbiculatus* · climbing spindle berry



Photos courtesy of Salisbury University Arboretum

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · Oriental bittersweet

**DESCRIPTION** · Climbing spindle berry is a deciduous vine that can grow up to 12 m tall. Leaves taper to a point, are 5-10 cm long and serrated. Climbing spindle berry has inconspicuous flowers, followed by brilliant orange fruit with a scarlet centre. It is easiest to find in the autumn when the leaves turn yellow.

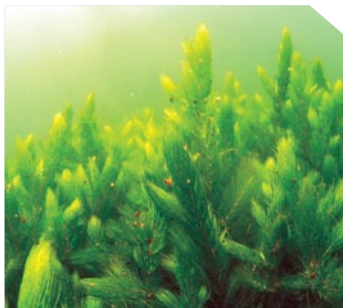
**IMPACT** · Climbing spindle berry is a vigorous vine that prefers sunny spots but is also shade-tolerant. Once established, it can “wait” for a disturbance in forest canopy and then compete with native species for resources.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Ceratophyllum demersum* · hornwort, coontail



Aquatic Plant



Photos courtesy of Rohan Wells

**DESCRIPTION** · Hornwort is a submerged freshwater weed found in still and flowing waters, growing to depths of 16 m in clear deep lakes. Leaves are finely divided, with minute teeth which make the plant feel rough to the touch. It lacks roots but has modified leaves that anchor the plant in bottom sediments.

**IMPACT** · New plants can form from each piece of the easily broken stems. Hornwort rapidly invades water of varying clarity, temperature, light and nutrient level, and its dense growth habit crowds out native species. It is a major weed in hydroelectric dams, also impeding irrigation, drainage and other water uses.

**WHAT TO DO** · Hornwort is still of limited distribution in much of New Zealand, and has only recently been discovered in the South Island. In the North Island contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control. **Report all sightings in the South Island to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.**

## *Cestrum parqui* · green cestrum



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Green cestrum is a shrub that grows 1-3 m high. Its erect stems become woody as it matures. Leaves are hairless, up to 120 cm long and 2.5 cm wide, and foul-smelling when crushed. They are arranged alternately on the stems. The greenish-yellow tubular flowers (15-23 mm long), in dense clusters at the end of the branches, appear from November to June. Flowers are followed by glossy purplish-black berries about 1 cm long.

**IMPACT** · This plant grows anywhere with high temperatures and high rainfall, and forms dense stands in the forest understorey, preventing the establishment of native plant seedlings. **The whole plant is toxic to both animals and humans.**

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* · boneseed



Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · This is a bushy shrub that grows 2-3 m high. Stems are ribbed and woolly when young but become smooth as they mature. Smooth, leathery, bright-green leaves (7 x 3.5 cm) have irregularly toothed edges and are arranged alternately on the stems. Bright-yellow daisy-like flowers (25-30 mm across) are produced from September to February, followed by hard, oval, green fruit (6-9 mm) which ripen to black and contain a hard seed.

**IMPACT** · Boneseed replaces lower-growing native species and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. It colonises disturbed sites faster than native species, and creates heavy shade in otherwise open spaces.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

Photo courtesy of Trevor James

*Clematis flammula* · clematis, fragrant virgin's bower, plume clematis



Vine



**DESCRIPTION** · Fragrant virgin's bower is a deciduous climbing vine with long woody round and weakly ribbed stems. Leaves are in opposite pairs on the stem and are bipinnate with thick, sparsely hairy, unlobed small leaflets that fall in Autumn. Its white flowers appear in large bunches from January to March, and are followed by dense, fluffy clusters of hairy seeds (5-6mm long) with distinctive white-plumes (3-4cm long) in May.

**IMPACT** · Fragrant virgin's bower grows rapidly and can smother plants to medium canopy height. This can prevent native species establishing. It moves readily into shrub land and forest margins as stems take root where they touch the ground.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Clematis vitalba* · old man's beard



**DESCRIPTION** · This is a deciduous climbing vine that grows to 20 m tall. It has very long woody stems with six prominent ribs, and pale easily rubbed-off bark. Leaves are arranged in opposite pairs on the stems, and are made up of five leaflets. The thin leaflets are sparsely hairy and have bluntly toothed or smooth edges. Fragrant creamy-white flowers (2-3 cm in diameter) are produced from December to May. Flowers are followed by grey hairy seeds with distinctive white plumes (3-4 cm long) in dense fluffy clusters persisting over winter (hence the name “old man’s beard”).

**IMPACT** · This vine smothers and kills all plants to the highest canopy, and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. It moves readily into established forest over the canopy by layering. Seeds are spread by wind, water, the movement of soil, etc.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Cobaea scandens* · cathedral bells



Vine



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Cathedral bells is a fast-growing perennial vine. It grows over trees and shrubs in open forest-edge situations after escaping from gardens. It has bell-shaped flowers that are green when young but turn purple once pollen is shed. Capsules are hard, oval and usually 5.5-8.5 cm long. They split into sections to release numerous flat, winged seeds.

**IMPACT** · The vines can grow over trees and shrubs, forming a dense canopy and smothering desirable plants.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Cortaderia jubata* · purple pampas



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a giant clump-forming grass growing up to 3 m or more. The leaves tend to droop, and each has sharp edges and a wide conspicuous midrib but no secondary veins between midrib and leaf edge. Both leaf surfaces are dark green. Leaves snap readily when tugged, and dead leaf bases curl like wood shavings (unlike the related native toetoes). From January to March dense, erect, fluffy, bright-purple flower heads are produced well above the foliage. They later fade to a dirty brown.

**IMPACT** · Windborne seeds allow the grass to easily spread far and wide. It readily colonises disturbed sites, quickly becomes dense and can suppress the growth of other species. It replaces ground cover, shrubs and ferns, creates a fire hazard, provides habitats for possums and rats, and impedes access.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Pampas is another giant, clump-forming grass that can grow to 4 m or more. The leaves are bluish-green above and dark-green below, and have a conspicuous midrib and sharp edges but no secondary veins between midrib and leaf edge. The leaves snap readily when tugged. Dead leaf bases curl like wood shavings, unlike the related native toetoes. Fluffy white-pinkish flower heads are produced from mid-March to June and fade to a dirty white as seeds form.

**IMPACT** · Windborne seeds allow the grass to easily spread far and wide. It readily colonises disturbed sites, quickly becomes dense and can suppress the growth of other species. It replaces ground cover, shrubs and ferns, creates a fire hazard, provides habitats for possums and rats, and impedes access.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Cotoneaster simonsii* · Khasia berry



Shrub



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Khasia berry is a deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub that grows up to 4 m. Young stems are covered with dense brown downy hairs. As the plant ages, stems become hairless and brownish-grey and are often covered in sooty mould. Leaves are shiny pale-green (13-25 x 7-15 mm) and have thin hairs on top when young but are hairless when mature. Clusters of one to four small whitish to pale-pink flowers appear from November to December. Flowers are followed by shiny orange-red or scarlet berries (5-10 mm long).

**IMPACT** · This shrub forms the understorey in open forest and invades margins. It overtops and replaces shrub species, and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Cotyledon orbiculata* · pig's ear



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Pig's ear is a succulent species with grey-green opposite leaves with red margins. The leaves appear greyish and powdery. In summer, clusters of orange bell shaped drooping flowers form on 60cm stalks from the centre of the leaf rosette. Flowers are about 2.5cm in length.

**IMPACT** · Pig's ear competes with and replaces native species, mainly in coastal areas. It can also be poisonous to stock.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Crassula multicava* · fairy crassula



Ground Cover



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Fairy crassula is a creeping succulent herb. Leaves are fleshy, about 4 x 4 cm and covered with small, pitted dots. Flowers are pale pink and small, but in large clusters. Small plantlets develop in these clusters after flowering.

**IMPACT** · Fairy crassula spreads easily by small fragments, particularly on rocky sites. While it grows well in open areas it also tolerates some shade, competing with native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Cyathea cooperii* · Australian tree fern, lacy tree fern



Fern / Fern Ally



**SYNONYMS** · *Sphaeropteris cooperi*

**DESCRIPTION** · Australian tree fern can grow up to 12 m in height, and has a slender trunk of about 3-6" thick. It looks similar to native tree ferns, but the stipe base has two different types of scales, the first being dark small scales, and the other being large, pale papery scales. The fronds can grow up to 5 m long.

**IMPACT** · Australian tree fern is a fast growing fern that can displace native vegetation by forming dense stands. Its spores also spread easily by wind and germinate rapidly.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Dipogon lignosus* · mile-a-minute



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Dolichos capensis*, *Dolichos gibbosus*, *Dolichos lignosus*, *Verdcourtia lignosa*

**DESCRIPTION** · Mile-a-minute is an evergreen climbing vine. Stems are rounded and moderately hairy. Leaves, green above and pale below, are made up of three heart-shaped leaflets (25-55 mm long). Pea-like white, lavender and white, or pink to reddish-purple flowers (10-15 mm long) are produced from July to January. Flowers are followed by sickle-shaped seed pods (30-40 mm long).

**IMPACT** · A fast-growing vine, it smothers and kills most plants from ground level to medium canopy and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. It thrives in bare sites and increases nitrogen in impoverished soil types, potentially changing the species that can grow there.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Drosera capensis* · Cape sundew



Herb



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Cape sundew is a perennial, with linear leaves up to 6.5 cm long, arranged in a basal rosette. The leaves are densely covered with tentacle-like hairs, each tipped with a sticky sap that attracts and captures small insects. Leaves curl around captured prey and then enzymes are secreted to digest it. Cape sundew is easily distinguished from New Zealand native species. It has dark-pink flowers borne in long flower spikes, whereas the New Zealand plants do not.

**IMPACT** · Cape sundew grows well in a range of New Zealand wetlands, displacing small native plant species. It spreads rapidly by seed.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Eccremocarpus scaber* · Chilean glory creeper



Vine



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · Chilean glory vine, glory vine, Chilean glory flower

**DESCRIPTION** · Chilean glory creeper is a rapidly growing perennial vine and is evergreen or deciduous in colder climates. The leaves are bipinnate and there are three to seven leaflets. It has numerous orange-red tubular flowers in summer. Seeds have a prominent wing that aids dispersal.

**IMPACT** · Chilean glory creeper is a rapid-growing vine that prefers open, sunny, well-drained areas.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photos courtesy of Rohan Wells

**SYNONYMS** · *Anacharis densa*, *Elodea densa*

**DESCRIPTION** · *Egeria* is a freshwater aquatic herb. It is bottom-rooted, and grows up to 5 m tall. It is denser and leafier than other oxygen weeds *elodea*, *hydrilla* and *lagarosiphon*, and produces white flowers which protrude to just above the waterline.

**IMPACT** · Stems of *egeria* reroot, and then form new colonies which grow taller than other native species. Once established, *egeria* is very difficult to manage. It is a major weed in hydroelectric dams, also impeding irrigation, drainage and other water uses.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Ehrharta villosa* · pyp grass



Photos courtesy of Horizons Regional Council, Trevor James, and The Conservation Company

**DESCRIPTION** · Pyp grass is a perennial grass growing from long, creeping rhizomes. The jointed stems are robust and usually around 90 cm tall, although they can be up to 150 or even 200 cm tall. Leaves are bluish-green and short in proportion to the stems, about 1.5-13 cm long. The leaves may be absent. The inflorescence is a panicle up to 25 cm long, narrow and rather lax.

**IMPACT** · Pyp grass has a limited distribution in New Zealand, being known from three sites where it has invaded sand dunes. Pyp grass is a serious agricultural weed in South Australia. It commonly grows as a dense sward displacing most other species, in some cases even scrambling over shrubs up to 2-3 metres in height. Pyp grass is a significant threat to sand dune systems throughout New Zealand. It is expected to invade dunes and contribute to the degradation of sand dune habitats.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66 if you find this plant.



Photo courtesy of Melanie Newfield, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand

**DESCRIPTION** · Water hyacinth plants consist of a free-floating rosette of shiny rounded leaves with thick masses of feathery roots which hang in the water. The roots are dark in colour and can reach 2.5 m in length. A single flowering stalk with a cluster of mauve-blue flowers, each with a yellow spot, is produced from the rosette. The stalk grows up to 50 cm above the leaf canopy. Plants produce floating horizontal stems from which new plants arise. Mature mats of this plant are held together by these stems.

**IMPACT** · Water hyacinth forms dense mats, completely smothering large waterways and badly affecting water quality. These mats kill off native plants, attract breeding mosquitoes, block dams and irrigation systems, remove oxygen from the water and create a drowning risk for people and animals.

**WHAT TO DO** · All sightings must be reported to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.



## *Eomecon chionantha* · snow poppy



Ground Cover



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · poppy of the dawn, Chinese bloodroot

**SYNONYMS** · *Eomecon chionanthum*

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a herbaceous perennial which spreads by underground rhizomes. Snow poppy grows low to the ground and has small oval leaves with scalloped edges. In spring, a pure-white four-petalled flower blooms, with bright golden-yellow stamens.

**IMPACT** · Snow poppy is a shade-tolerant ground cover which has recently gone wild in New Zealand and begun spreading into the bush.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Equisetum* (all species) · horsetail



Fern / Fern Ally



*Equisetum arvense*



*Equisetum hyemale*

Photos courtesy of Environment Canterbury / Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Horsetails are mostly small perennials (but one species can be as tall as 2 m) that grow from creeping rhizomes. They often have separate sterile and fertile shoots, the latter producing spores. The sterile stems are hollow and jointed, with bristle-like branches growing from the joints. All species grow in wet places.

**IMPACT** · Invasive in wet places, species in this genus are extremely hard to control once they are established, being resistant to most herbicides.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Eragrostis curvula* · African love grass



Grass



**DESCRIPTION** · African love grass is a vigorous deep-rooted clump-forming perennial grass growing 1.5 m tall. It is densely tufted, with narrow leaves that are harsh to the touch, have margins rolled inwards and are usually hairless. It has pyramid-shaped flower heads with small white flowers.

**IMPACT** · African love grass quickly forms dense strands in open country, displacing other grasses.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Erigeron karvinskianus* · Mexican daisy



Herb



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**SYNONYMS** · *Erigeron mucronatus*, *Erigeron* “Profusion”

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a sprawling perennial daisy which grows to 40 cm tall with fibrous roots and long thin stems. It has small narrow leaves (the upper leaves are usually three-lobed) which are fragrant when crushed, and white, white-purplish or pink daisy-like flowers with a central yellow disc from January to December, followed by masses of fluffy seeds.

**IMPACT** · Mexican daisy forms dense mats and produces huge amounts of seeds that travel long distances.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Euonymus japonicus* · Japanese spindle tree



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

Does not include small-leaved cultivars such as *Microphylla* and *emerald Gem*.

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a hairless, evergreen shrub or small tree growing to 7 m. It has round or slightly ribbed twigs which are usually smooth but wrinkle when dry, and glossy, ovalish, finely toothed leaves (25-70 mm long) in opposite pairs along the stems. Japanese spindle tree is usually grown as a variegated yellow-leaved cultivar, but all seedlings revert to the green form. Its flowers are green. It has fleshy, round, pink seed capsules (6-10 mm in diameter) which are four-celled with orange to red flesh surrounding the seeds.

**IMPACT** · It forms dense stands in open or shady sites including forest margins, disturbed and secondary inland and coastal forest and shrubland, and coastal cliffs and sand dunes preventing the establishment of native plant seedlings.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



**DESCRIPTION** · Port Jackson fig is an evergreen tree (to about 15 m) that often begins life as an epiphyte. Young stems are finely hairy and become hairless as they mature. Its leaves are narrow-oval and leathery (6-12 cm long). The tops of leaves are shiny and hairless, while the underside is densely covered in fine hairs and is pinkish-brown in colour. Small round green flowers with rusty hairs develop into deep-yellow to dull-red fruit (12-20 mm long).

**IMPACT** · Port Jackson fig is a strangler fig that grows into a long-lived large tree. It can damage or kill its supporting plant, and can invade scrub and forest in any successional phase and regardless of disturbance. It is very drought-tolerant, and is a major threat to native lava communities (for example, Rangitoto Island).

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Fuchsia boliviana* · Bolivian fuchsia



Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · Bolivian fuchsia is a small erect shrub (2-5 m tall) with grey-green opposite leaves (5-10 cm long). Red (or sometimes white) trumpet-like flowers are produced in hanging, terminal clusters, followed by cylindrical dark-purple berries.

**IMPACT** · Bolivian fuchsia forms dense tall thickets of up to 2 m. It establishes along track and stream sides, along forest margins, and in disturbed and intact forest, and is very shade-tolerant. It is also able to disperse large distances from cultivated and naturalised individuals via bird dispersal.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation



## *Galeobdolon luteum* · artillery plant, aluminium plant



Ground Cover



Photos courtesy of Trevor James / Department of Conservation

**SYNONYMS** · *Lamium galeobdolon*, *Galeobdolon argentatum*

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a mat-forming perennial ground cover. Stems are square and purple in colour. Aromatic mint-like oval leaves (30-80 x 25-60 mm) are coarsely serrated along the edges, and arranged alternately on the stems. The leaves are hairy below, with large pale-silvery-grey patches on the upper surface. From December to May, tubular hairy lemon-yellow flowers (20-25 mm long) are produced.

**IMPACT** · This herb forms a dense ground cover in shaded areas and prevents seedlings of native species establishing.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Gunnera tinctoria* · Chilean rhubarb



Herb



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Chilean rhubarb is a large clump-forming herbaceous plant which can grow up to 2 m high. It has stout rhizomes, and massive umbrella-sized leaves which, along with the stems, are covered in rubbery prickles. Overall the plant resembles a giant rhubarb, hence its name. In summer, tiny green flowers are formed on a spike which is up to 1 m long. The flowers are followed by tiny red fruit.

**IMPACT** · Chilean rhubarb forms dense colonies and displaces native vegetation. For example, it has invaded coastal cliffs in Taranaki which are home to a number of low-growing endangered plants. Birds spread the seeds into remote areas.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides* · Senegal tea



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



Photos courtesy of D. Burnett / P. Mabin / R. Smart

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · temple plant, costata

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a perennial aquatic herb which grows to more than 1 m tall. It has hollow stems (1-1.5 m long and 5-10 mm in diameter at first, increasing to 20 mm with age) which become prostrate and take root at nodes. It also has dark-green, slightly waxy, lance-shaped leaves (50-200 x 25-50 mm) with serrated edges. From November to April, highly scented clover-like flower heads are produced with many thin white “petals” (florets). Flowers are followed by small seeds. Senegal tea is dormant over winter and dies back to rootstock if chilled.

**IMPACT** · Senegal tea grows very quickly, and is known to rapidly cover water bodies with a floating mat, excluding other plants and the animals that rely on them. The effects of flooding are made much worse because infestations block drainage channels. Recreational activities, irrigation and navigation may also be affected.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## Hedychium flavescens · yellow ginger



Herb



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · This plant is a non-woody ginger-scented perennial growing to 2.5 m tall, with massive taro-like rhizomes that are long and shallow-rooted and that grow over each other to form deep beds. Each rhizome segment (4 x 10 cm) usually produces an aerial stem each year. These stems grow to 2.5 m and are erect. Leaves (50 x 10 cm) are alternate and shiny, and point upwards. Flower heads (15 x 10 cm) with fragrant cream-coloured flowers in clusters are produced in May to June. However, no fruit is produced.

**IMPACT** · Yellow ginger is long-lived and fast-growing, and forms deep rhizome beds. Rhizomes resprout from any fragment, and can survive for years away from soil. They can also survive crushing and immersion in the sea. No seed is produced so virtually all spread is the result of human activity, such as dumping garden waste.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Hedychium gardnerianum* · Kahili ginger



Herb



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Kahili ginger is a non-woody perennial growing to 2 m tall, which is also ginger-scented. Like yellow ginger, it has long shallow-rooted rhizomes which grow over each other close to the ground surface and form deep beds. Each rhizome segment produces an aerial stem and has shiny, slightly hanging, alternate leaves (20-45 x 10-15 cm). The flower heads (which are 25-45 cm tall with fragrant lemon-yellow flowers with conspicuous red stamens) are different from yellow ginger. These develop into fruiting spikes with fleshy orange fruits (15-20 mm long) which contain many bright scarlet seeds.

**IMPACT** · Kahili ginger is extremely shade-tolerant. It is long-lived and fast-growing and forms deep rhizome beds. It is spread by birds and also by human activity, such as dumping garden waste.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Heracleum mantegazzianum* · giant hogweed



Herb



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · wild rhubarb, cartwheel flower, wild parsnip

**DESCRIPTION** · Giant hogweed is a perennial that grows 4-6 m in height. It has stout dark-reddish-purple stems, and spotted leaf stalks with sturdy pustulate bristles which contain a toxic sap. The stems and stalks are hollow, the stems being 5-10 cm in diameter. Giant hogweed has extremely large leaves (up to 1.5 m) and tuberous root stalks. When the plant is two to three years old it produces large umbrella-like clusters of greenish-white flowers. It usually grows on the banks of rivers or creeks.

**IMPACT** · Giant hogweed is poisonous to humans. Touching it, or exposure to dust from weed-eating, can irritate skin and cause blisters and swelling. The toxin actually causes photosensitisation so that the skin reacts badly to sunlight.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Hieracium* (all species) · hawkweed



Ground Cover



*H. lepidulum*



*H. aurantiacum*



*H. pillosella*



*H. pillosella*

**DESCRIPTION** · The Hawkweed group comprises small hardy plants which colonise tussock lands.

**IMPACT** · Hawkweed grows rapidly in tussock grasslands, displacing native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

Photos courtesy of Trevor James



## Homalanthus populifolius · Queensland poplar



Tree



Photos courtesy of Jonathon Boow, Auckland Regional Council

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · bleeding heart tree, poplar leaved omalanthus

**DESCRIPTION** · Queensland poplar is a shrub or tree up to 5 m tall. It has smooth heart-shaped leaves which turn distinctively red with age. Individual flowers are small and inconspicuous, and occur in spikes up to 17 cm long. Fruits are up to 1 cm in diameter.

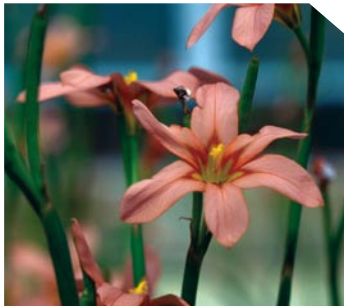
**IMPACT** · Queensland poplar produces prolific seeds and is spread by birds. It is shade-tolerant and competes with native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · All sightings must be reported to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.

## *Homeria collina* · Cape tulip



Herb



Photos courtesy of Plant Protection Society

**DESCRIPTION** · Cape tulip has a single strap-like drooping leaf, and branched flower stalks that can grow up to 90 cm in height. The flowers are attractive, have six petals, are about 5 cm wide and are variable in colour from yellow-orange and orange-scarlet to salmon pink.

**IMPACT** · Cape tulip is reputedly poisonous to animals and humans. It has been under official control since the 1940s, but still persists in a few places.

**WHAT TO DO** · All sightings must be reported to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.



## *Houttuynia cordata* · chameleon plant



Ground Cover



Photos courtesy of Carolyn Lewis and Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Chameleon plant is a perennial ground cover. The leaves are heart-shaped and are usually variegated cream, bronze, scarlet and green but may revert to a plain green colour. They have a peppery scent when crushed. The leaves are opposite along thin erect stems which arise from slender rhizomes, and the plant has minute flowers which are densely clustered on short spikes, with four white petal-like bracts at the base.

**IMPACT** · Chameleon plant has a very rapid growth rate, overtaking gardens where it is planted and being likely to displace native plants in forest and wetland ecosystems.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photos courtesy of Rohan Wells / J. Clayton

**DESCRIPTION** · Hydrilla is a submerged perennial aquatic oxygen weed that can grow up to 9 m tall in still or slow-flowing fresh water. The bottom-rooted plant forms underground tubers on the tips of rhizomes. Its thin many-branched stems are produced in whorls of three to eight with obvious toothed edges.

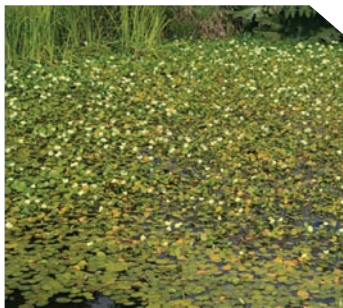
**IMPACT** · Hydrilla is spread primarily through stem fragments which are easily transported to other waterways by machinery, boats, trailers or nets. At present it is only found in four Hawkes Bay lakes, but once established is virtually impossible to eliminate, forming dense mats which clog waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · You must report all sightings of this plant to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.

## *Hydrocleys nymphoides* · water poppy



Aquatic Plant



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Hydrocleis nymphoides*

**DESCRIPTION** · Water poppy is a water lily-like perennial plant. Leaves are thick and shiny and float on the surface, with each shoot connected by a network of elastic creeping stems that form a dense mat. It has a distinctive three-petalled solitary pale-yellow flower with a dark-purple centre. Flowers are up to 8 cm across.

**IMPACT** · Water poppy grows rapidly in warm well-lit water bodies to depths of 2 m. It can completely choke streams, shallow ponds and lake margins, causing flooding and excluding native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Hypericum androsaemum* · tutsan, sweet amber



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Tutsan is a small, perennial, semi-evergreen shrub. This plant grows to 1.5 m with fibrous roots and no rhizomes. Fragrant ovalish leaves (35-100 x 25-50 mm) are usually bluish underneath and turn red in autumn. Yellow five-petaled flowers (15-25 mm in diameter) with long stamens appear from November to February. Flowers are followed by round red berries (1 cm in diameter) that ripen to black. The berries contain cylindrical or curved seeds (9-10 mm long).

**IMPACT** · Tutsan invades regenerating sites, forms dense stands and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. It is usually succeeded by taller vegetation, but is persistent in shorter habitats.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Ipomoea indica* · blue morning glory



Vine



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Blue morning glory is a high-climbing vine with tough hairy stems and tough fibrous roots without rhizomes. Its leaves are usually three-lobed and silky-hairy underneath. From late spring to early winter it produces groups of three to 12 deep-blue-purple, funnel-shaped flowers that are pink at the base, which wither in the midday sun.

**IMPACT** · Blue morning glory is very fast-growing, producing dense smothering blankets of foliage that can reach into the canopy. It quickly becomes the dominant vine wherever it occurs.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Iris pseudacorus* · yellow flag iris



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Lewis

**DESCRIPTION** · This is an aquatic perennial growing in leafy clumps up to 2 m tall, and arising from dense rhizomes (up to 3 cm in diameter). Sword-like leaves emerge in fans from a reddish base. From October to December it produces pale-yellow to golden-orange flowers (up to 12 cm in diameter), followed by seed capsules containing many brown, flattened, three-sided disc-like seeds.

**IMPACT** · Yellow flag iris is poisonous to humans and animals. Rhizomes form dense floating mats, and the plant overtops native species that grow on margins of water bodies, including estuarine areas. It can also invade flood-prone pasture.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Jasminum humile* · Italian jasmine



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation & Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Italian jasmine is a scrambling shrub up to 2.5 m tall. Leaves are pinnate, usually with 3-7 oval leaflets up to 5 cm long but often much less in the wild. Yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers are up to 2 cm long and in clusters of up to 10. Flowers are followed by black fruit. It is sometimes confused with primrose jasmine (*Jasminum mesnyi*), but this species, which isn't reported as fruiting in New Zealand, has dark green leaves with only three leaflets and solitary flowers that are much larger.

**IMPACT** · Italian jasmine is particularly invasive around Golden Bay, where it forms large patches in forest gaps and cliffs, excluding native species. The fruit is spread by birds.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photos courtesy of Rohan Wells

**DESCRIPTION** · Lagarosiphon is a submerged bottom-rooting perennial which grows up to 5 m tall. Leaves are arranged spirally around the stem, and are curved backwards or downwards. All other oxygen weed species have leaves arranged in groups (whorls) of three to eight, rather than alternately. Tiny pinkish flowers are produced.

**IMPACT** · Lagarosiphon grows quickly, forming dense mats which block waterways and displace native plants. It is a major weed in hydroelectric dams, also impeding irrigation, drainage and other water uses.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Lantana camara* (all varieties) · lantana



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Lantana is a significant weed with over 600 varieties. It is a low, erect or scrambling shrub with backwards-pointing prickles and a strong root system. Its leaves are wrinkly and more or less oval, with dense and often prickly hairs on the upper surface. The small flowers can be many different colours and occur in clusters, often with more than one colour in a single cluster, for example yellow and pink. Flowers are followed by small blue-black fruit. *Lantana camara* var. *aculeata* is the most common variety of lantana found in New Zealand. It has small cream and pink flowers in bunches, but other varieties may have other flower colours, such as orange.

**IMPACT** · Overseas, lantana is a major weed of both natural and agricultural ecosystems, and is spreading in New Zealand as the climate warms. It grows in clumps or dense thickets and crowds out more desirable species. It is sometimes toxic to livestock.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Ligustrum lucidum* · tree privet



Tree



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation & Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · This is an evergreen hairless tree that can grow to more than 15 m. This plant has distinctive lumpy warts on the stems. Dark-green leaves (5-13 x 3-6 cm) are glossy on the top surface and arranged in opposite pairs on the stems. Tiny fragrant creamy flowers (25 x 20 cm) are produced from November to March. The smell is unpleasant to some people. Flowers are followed by bluish or purplish-black berry-like fruit (6 x 5 mm) coated with a powdery “bloom”.

**IMPACT** · Tree privet forms a dense carpet of seedlings on the forest floor, and grows through the understorey to dominate and replace canopy trees in most forest types. Poisonous berries may possibly impact on native fauna, especially insects. Privet species are commonly believed to cause hay fever and asthma, although privet allergies are less common than most people think.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

*Lilium formosanum* · Formosa lily, trumpet lily, St Joseph's lily,  
Taiwan lily



Herb



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Formosa lily grows up to a metre tall and has narrow, lance-shaped leaves up to 13 cm long and coming off the main stem. It produces purple-tinged white, trumpet-shaped flowers which are 15 to 18 cm long.

**IMPACT** · Formosa lily is a common garden escape, forming colonies in the wild. It is salt-tolerant, and has become naturalised in roadside areas and dunes, mainly in the North Island.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and the responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



**DESCRIPTION** · This plant is a vigorous evergreen (semi-evergreen in cold districts) climber. Young stems are purple and hairy. As the plant ages the stems become woody. Stems are long and tough and twine clockwise. Leaves (3-12 x 2-6 cm) sit in opposite pairs on the stems. Upper surfaces of leaves are shiny dark-green (occasionally yellowish) and lighter-green on the underside. Pairs of two-lipped sweetly scented tubular white flowers (2-5 cm long) that age to yellow are produced from September to May. Flowers are followed by egg-shaped glossy black berries (5-7 mm in diameter).

**IMPACT** · The vine climbs over and smothers most plants from the ground to the medium canopy. It can cause canopy collapse and subsequent invasion of grasses or ground vines. It also provides support for faster-growing weedy vines (for example, morning glory and mothplant). Most spread is by the movement of stem fragments, such as the dumping of garden rubbish, rather than by seed.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## Ludwigia peploides subsp. *Montevidensis* · primrose willow



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · floating primrose willow, water primrose

**DESCRIPTION** · Primrose willow is a sprawling perennial aquatic herb with long many-branched stems, alternate shiny leaves and a 2 cm-wide yellow flower produced in summer/autumn. It either grows on water body margins or can spread to form floating mats, especially in autumn.

**IMPACT** · Primrose willow quickly invades and colonises when introduced, particularly on water edges, smothering other vegetation and impeding water movement.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photo courtesy of Paul Champion

**DESCRIPTION** · This is an erect, summer-green perennial herb growing to 1-2 m (occasionally to 3 m) with a taproot and fibrous roots that form dense surface mats and produce up to 50 stems per rootstock. Its many-branched stems are four- to eight-sided, are pink at the base and die off in winter. Narrow leaves (20-100 x 5-25 mm) are usually paired, clasping around the stem. From December to February a showy dense flower spike (20-25 cm long) is produced, made up of purple-magenta flowers with five to six petals which are followed by blackish seed capsules (3-5 mm long).

**IMPACT** · This plant rapidly invades damp ground, wetlands and shallow water. It overtops native species with dense bushy growth, is long-lived and produces millions of long-lived highly viable seeds from an early age. It tolerates hot or cold conditions and low to high nutrient levels in the water, but is intolerant of salt water.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Macfadyena unguis-cati* · cat's claw creeper



Photos courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

**SYNONYMS** · *Doxanthus unguis-cati*

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · cat's claw vine, cat's claw ivy, yellow trumpet vine

**DESCRIPTION** · Cat's claw creeper is a tendril climber from South America with large yellow trumpet flowers in late spring, followed by long bean-like seed pods. It is named because the leaves have branched claw-like tendrils which cling tightly to whatever they are climbing on.

**IMPACT** · This is a smothering vine that is difficult to control and has become a serious problem overseas, especially in Australia. It has naturalised near Napier and is expected to become a more widespread problem in New Zealand in future.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.





Photos courtesy of P. Champion / T. James

**DESCRIPTION** · Bogbean is a perennial plant that can grow in bogs and marshes and at the fringes of lakes or slow-flowing rivers. Bogbean has a creeping rootstock and thick green stems that often trail along the surface of the water body. It has very characteristic three-lobed light-green hairless leaves that emerge from the water. These die back in winter. In early summer long stalks bear pale-rose-coloured flowers (2.5 cm across) clustered together in a thick short spike. The inner petals are white and hairy, with reddish stamens. The flowers produce round orange seeds.

**IMPACT** · Bogbean grows rapidly and clogs waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## Myoporum insulare (and hybrids) · Tasmanian ngaio



Tree



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · boobialla

**DESCRIPTION** · Tasmanian ngaio is very similar to New Zealand ngaio, Myoporum laetum. The main difference is the almost universally green, sticky leaf buds of the Tasmanian ngaio, whereas the New Zealand ngaio usually has black buds and leaves dotted with glands. Also the Tasmanian ngaio has smaller flowers (7-8 mm) than the New Zealand ngaio (10-15 mm).

**IMPACT** · Where naturalised, Tasmanian ngaio competes with the New Zealand ngaio as the natural habitats are very similar. Tasmanian ngaio is commonly planted in the mistaken belief that it is the native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Myrica faya* · fire tree, candle berry myrtle



Photos courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

**SYNONYMS** · *Morella faya*

**DESCRIPTION** · Fire tree is an evergreen shrub or small tree that usually grows around 8 m tall. Its branches are covered with reddish hairs and its leaves are narrow and leathery (4-11 cm long). Flowers are on short spikes and the fruit are purple-black and warty in appearance.

**IMPACT** · Overseas, this is a fast-growing small tree which forms dense invasive colonies edging out native species. It has yet to naturalise in New Zealand, but if it does it is expected to become a serious problem.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Myricaria germanica* · false tamarisk



Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · False tamarisk is a deciduous shrub growing up to 1.5 m tall. Leaves are small (up to 5.5 mm long and 1.6 mm wide) and held close to branches. Flowers are small and pink, held in racemes, and formed from January. Seeds are formed in small grey capsules during February and March, often while there are still flowers on the plant.

**IMPACT** · False tamarisk has invaded stony ground in riverbeds. It is expected to have a similar impact to that of other weeds which invade braided riverbeds, such as reducing the habitat available for the birds that nest in braided riverbeds, while also providing cover for the predators that attack them.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

## *Myriophyllum aquaticum* · parrot's feather



Aquatic Plant



Photos courtesy of P. Champion / T. James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · thread of life, Brazilian watermilfoil

**SYNONYMS** · *Myriophyllum brasiliense*

**DESCRIPTION** · Parrot's feather is a bottom-rooted, perennial, sprawling, mat-forming emergent plant with stems that grow to 2 m long, emerging 10 cm above water. Feather-like blue-green leaves (25-45 x 7-15 mm) are in whorls of five to six, and are each divided into 25-30 leaflets (7 mm long).

**IMPACT** · Parrot's feather, like savinia and hydrilla, forms dense floating mats which clog waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Nassella* (all species) · nassella



*N. neesiana*



*N. trichotoma*

Photos courtesy of Ben Minehan, Marlborough District Council

**DESCRIPTION** · The nassella family are tussock-forming perennial grasses, with fibrous roots from small shallot-like bases. They all have extremely tough, thin, round leaves (300-500 x 1 mm) which do not break when pulled.

**IMPACT** · Nassella are long-lived and form pure colonies, producing masses of long-lived seeds which are extremely well picked up and dispersed.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Nephrolepis cordifolia* · tuber ladder fern



Fern / Fern Ally



**DESCRIPTION** · This is a terrestrial or epiphytic fern that grows to 1 m tall. This plant has small, erect, scaly rhizomes. Rhizomes produce many long runners and round (1-3 cm) hairy potato-like tubers. Fronds (40-100 x 5-8 cm) are erect or arching when long, with serrated divided leaflets.

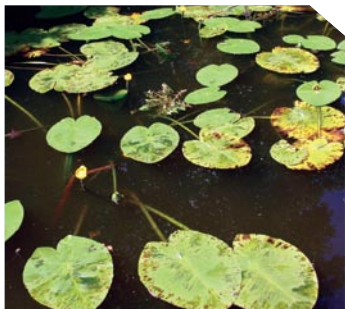
**IMPACT** · It crowds out ground cover, shrubs and other ferns, and can contribute to streamside erosion.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Nuphar lutea* · yellow water lily



Aquatic Plant



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

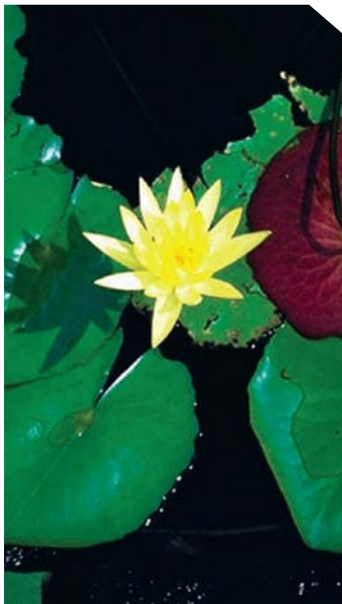
**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · spatterdock, cow lily, brandybottle

**SYNONYMS** · *Nuphar luteum*, *Nymphaea lutea*

**DESCRIPTION** · Yellow water lily is a yellow-flowered water lily growing from large far-spreading spongy rhizomes, up to 10 cm thick. It has thick oval-shaped waxy floating leaves and thin lettuce-like submerged leaves. The flower is smaller than other water lilies, yellow, six-petalled and 6 cm across. It is very similar to a large buttercup flower. It has an alcoholic smell, and when fertilised produces a green flask-shaped fruit.

**IMPACT** · It forms dense mats of floating leaves which clog waterways, displacing other plants and obstructing recreational water users.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



**DESCRIPTION** · Mexican water lily is similar to other water lilies. It has underwater rhizomes and heart-shaped floating leaves. However, it often has dark-brown flecks on the upper surface of its leaves. Flowers are pale-yellow with many petals. Unlike other true water lilies (*Nymphaea* and *Nuphar* species), Mexican water lily produces far-reaching fleshy stems (stolons) with banana-shaped tubers.

**IMPACT** · It forms dense mats of floating leaves which clog waterways, displacing other plants and obstructing recreational water users.

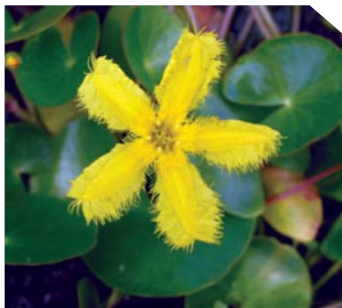
**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Nymphoides geminata* · marshwort, entire marshwort



Aquatic Plant

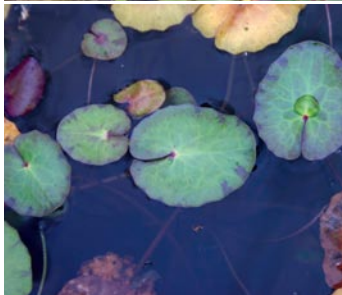


Photos courtesy of P. Champion / J. Clayton

**DESCRIPTION** · Marshwort is a bottom-rooted perennial water lily-like plant. It has long-branched running stems which extend for several metres and lie just beneath the water surface, producing groups of leaves, roots and/or flowers on each node. Its leaves are broadly ovate to rounded and are somewhat smaller than the leaves of other water lilies, being 30-80 mm long. It differs from other water lilies by its bright-yellow five-lobed flowers with distinct hair-like margins, which sit above the water surface on long stalks that grow in pairs. The flowers are 25-35 mm wide and have distinctive fringed wings. Flowers are produced from November through to April.

**IMPACT** · Marshwort rapidly colonises shallow water, forming dense mats which block waterways and smother other aquatic plants.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Fringed water lily is very similar to marshwort. The main difference is its leaves, which are frequently purple underneath and have scalloped margins. The flowers are golden-yellow, five-petalled and 3-4 cm in diameter, and are held above the water surface on long stalks, with one to several flowers per stalk. However, the flower edges are distinctively fringed and solid (rather than having hair-like processes). It also produces fruit, which is a capsule up to 2.5 cm long containing numerous seeds. These seeds are flat, oval and about 3.5 mm long, with hairy edges.

**IMPACT** · Fringed water lily has the potential to colonise waterways, forming dense mats which block them and restrict water activities.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Ochna serrulata* · Mickey Mouse plant



Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · Mickey Mouse plant is a small shrub of 1-2 m in height. It produces spherical black berry-like fruits attached to red sepals, which resemble the face of Mickey Mouse. Mickey Mouse plant has elliptic leaves which are 13-50 mm long with toothed leaf margins, and fragrant yellow blossoms about 20 mm in diameter which precede the black fruit. The young spring foliage starts as pinkish-bronze and matures to glossy green.

**IMPACT** · Mickey Mouse plant is easily dispersed, and could spread and naturalise in the wild. It has recently naturalised in New Zealand. It is regarded as a weed in Australia.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

Photos courtesy of Trevor James



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Royal fern is a deciduous fern whose rhizomes form a short woody trunk up to 1.5 m high, bearing large fronds up to 3 m long and 75 cm wide. The fronds are feather-like, subdivided twice, yellow-green and tough. Its spores are produced in brown fertile fronds resembling tiny bunches of grapes. They may have green leaflets towards their bases. Plants die back to the woody trunk in winter.

**IMPACT** · Royal fern can naturalise and form dense colonies in a range of wetland types in New Zealand, especially in disturbed areas and under the shade of willows and/or manuka. They displace other small-stature native wetland plants.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Panicum maximum* · Guinea grass



Grass



Photos courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · green panic, buffalo grass

**DESCRIPTION** · Guinea grass is a large tufted perennial grass which grows up to 3 m tall.

**IMPACT** · Guinea grass seeds profusely and is spread by birds, wind, etc. Seeds can survive long periods of drought and the plant can regenerate rapidly due to underground rhizomes.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Passiflora caerulea* · blue passion flower



Vine



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a vigorous evergreen high-climbing vine which grows to 6 m. Stems are long and angular with spiralling tendrils. Leaves are very thin and five-lobed almost to the base, each lobe being 3-8 cm long and narrow. Hanging whitish-purple flowers (6-9 cm in diameter) with purple filaments are produced from December to April. Flowers are followed by hanging round fruit (3-5 cm in diameter) that ripen from green to yellow. The fruit have small amounts of inedible pulp, and contain silver-brown seeds (4 mm long).

**IMPACT** · This plant smothers the canopy, can strangle host stems and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. It appears in light wells away from the parent plant.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Passiflora tarminiana* · Northern banana passionfruit



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation / Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Passiflora mixta* (name incorrectly used)

**DESCRIPTION** · Northern banana passionfruit is a high-climbing vine which produces pink tubular flowers throughout the year. These develop into oval fruit that turn yellow or orange-yellow when ripe. It is very similar to banana passionfruit. A useful way to tell them apart is by the flowers: the length of the floral tube is shorter in northern banana passionfruit (6-8 cm) than in banana passionfruit (8-9.5 cm), while the flower lobes are longer in northern banana passionfruit (4-6.5 cm compared to 2-3.8 cm in banana passionfruit). Both species are pest plants.

**IMPACT** · Northern banana passionfruit is an aggressively invasive vine native to the Andes that invades disturbed areas. Its effects include the smothering of trees, a reduction in biodiversity and the encouragement of invasive species such as feral pigs, which feed on the fruit. This species is a major weed in Hawaii.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Passiflora tripartita* (all subspecies) · banana passionfruit



Vine



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation & Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Passiflora mollissima*

**DESCRIPTION** · Banana passionfruit is very similar to Northern banana passionfruit. See the previous page for how to distinguish the two species.

**IMPACT** · Banana passionfruit is an aggressively invasive tropical vine native to the Andes that invades disturbed areas. Its effects include the smothering of trees, a reduction in biodiversity and the encouragement of invasive species such as feral pigs, which feed on the fruit.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Pennisetum* (all species\*) · pennisetum



Grass



Photos courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr, USGS

**\*excluding *P. clandestinum* (Kikuyu grass) and *P. glaucum* (pearl millet)**

**DESCRIPTION** · The Pennisetum genus comprises large annual or perennial grasses, growing to 1-4 m tall.

**IMPACT** · Pennisetum competes with native species and can establish populations in pasture and grasslands.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Phragmites australis* · phragmites



Grass



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Phragmites is a perennial grass that grows up to 3 m tall on water margins. It has bamboo-like stems which carry long, wide, flat leaves that taper to a point. It has large, fluffy, purplish-brown flower heads, and seed grain which is covered in silky hairs. It is similar to giant reed (*Arundo donax*), but phragmites is smaller and the stems are narrower in proportion to the leaves.

**IMPACT** · Phragmites reproduces asexually by rhizomes and, in its native range, forms dense patches on the edges of waterways. It is expected to invade waterways in New Zealand if it becomes more widespread, however it is unlikely to spread much unless distributed by people spreading rhizome fragments.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66 if you find this plant.

## *Pinus contorta* · lodgepole pine, contorta pine



Tree



**DESCRIPTION** · Lodgepole pine is an evergreen tree that can grow to a height of 6-24 m depending on the variety and growing conditions. Its bark is reddish-brown, and it has two yellow-green to dark-green needles together in a twisted bunch. Cones are egg-shaped, 3-6 cm long and 2-4 cm across, and tend to point backwards on the branch.

**IMPACT** · Lodgepole pine is a prolific seeder which spreads its seed across a large distance. If ungrazed it will form dense thickets, making access impossible. It invades natural grassland at medium to high altitudes and displaces native species. It has already done so in Tongariro National Park and in parts of the South Island, where it is regarded as a major problem.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Water lettuce is a free-floating rosette of pale-green to bright-green leaves that are densely hairy, with thick masses of feathery roots which hang in the water. It produces smaller “daughter plants” on short horizontal stems which can form a dense floating mat, and also produces small flower spikes enclosed in a green hooded bract.

**IMPACT** · Water lettuce is an invasive and aggressive weed that could potentially cause serious damage to New Zealand’s waterways. It also reduces biological diversity and degrades water quality.

**WHAT TO DO** · All sightings must be reported to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.

## *Pittosporum undulatum* · sweet pittosporum



Tree



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · Victorian box, Australian cheesewood, New Zealand daphne

**DESCRIPTION** · Sweet pittosporum is a slender-branched shrub or tree which can grow to 12 m tall in its natural habitat. It has smooth grey bark. Its leaves are shiny and pointed at both ends, with wavy prominent margins. They are alternating, although often crowded at the ends, and 6-15 cm long and 1.5-4 cm wide. The plant has fragrant white flowers with five petals which bend abruptly downward at the ends. It also has globe-shaped fruit.

**IMPACT** · Sweet pittosporum invades native forest areas and shades out native plants. Its leaves contain toxins that can inhibit the growth of other plants. In Australia it is spreading outside its original range and has become a serious problem.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Lewis

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · blue spur flower

**DESCRIPTION** · Plectranthus is a trailing or straggling herb with stems covered in purple hairs. It has hairy, oval, textured leaves (5-12 x 3-7 cm) with serrated edges, the underside of which is purple. Erect stems (up to 30 cm tall) of tubular white flowers (1 cm long) with purple dots inside the lower lip appear from December to August.

**IMPACT** · This plant creeps along the ground, forming thick smothering mats that prevent seedling establishment.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Polygala myrtifolia* (excluding cultivar "grandiflora") · sweet pea shrub



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · sweet pea bush, myrtle leaf milkwort

**DESCRIPTION** · Sweet pea shrub is many-branched and grows up to 2 m high. It has alternating leaves which are oval and up to 30 mm long. Pea-like purple or veined-purple flowers are clustered in simple racemes at the ends of the branches.

**IMPACT** · Sweet pea shrub rapidly colonises forest margins, coastal cliffs, shrublands and dunes, competing with and inhibiting regeneration of native species, primarily in northern New Zealand. It is also drought-tolerant.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Potamogeton perfoliatus* · clasped pondweed



Aquatic Plant



Photo courtesy of J. Clayton

**DESCRIPTION** · Clasped pondweed is a submerged freshwater aquatic plant that occurs in still and flowing water. The most characteristic feature of this species is the way the leaves wrap around the stem, a feature not found in other pond weeds in New Zealand. The stems are long, trailing and leafy, and the leaves are very thin with wavy margins. They appear translucent and are either pale-green or bronze. Flowers and fruit are produced in summer and autumn on a short spike floating on the surface.

**IMPACT** · Clasped pondweed is an invasive weed that poses a serious threat to New Zealand waterways if allowed to establish here.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



*Prunus serotina* · rum cherry, wild black cherry, mountain black cherry, black cherry

Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · Rum cherry is a deciduous tree growing to 18m by 8m with a trunk diameter of up to 70-120 cm, occasionally more. The leaves are 6-14 cm long and are deciduous. The flowers are small, usually 10-15mm diameter, with 5 white petals and about 20 stamens, and are fragrant. There are about 40 flowers on each raceme. The fruit green to red at first, ripening black, about 1cm in diameter.

**IMPACT** · Rum cherry invades forests in Europe and dense stands of seedlings have been reported from open forest in New Zealand. The leaves contain toxins and are sometimes reported as causing livestock poisoning overseas.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Pyracantha angustifolia* · firethorn



Shrub



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · orange firethorn, yellow firethorn

**DESCRIPTION** · Firethorn is a shrub growing up to 4 m tall. It has oblong-shaped leaves up to 5 cm long, and small branches which are tipped with a thorn. Small white flowers occur in bunches and are followed by abundant small bright-orange berries.

**IMPACT** · Firethorn is a prolific seed producer whose bright orange seeds are readily dispersed by birds. It displaces native species in shrublands.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## Reynoutria japonica (and hybrids) · Asiatic knotweed



Herb



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · Japanese knotweed, Mexican bamboo

**SYNONYMS** · Polygonum cuspidatum, Polygonum reynoutria, Fallopia japonica, Fallopia japonica x sachalinensis, Fallopia x bohemica

**DESCRIPTION** · Asiatic knotweed is an upright shrub-like herbaceous perennial that can rapidly grow to 3 m in height. It has red-purple shoots which appear early in spring but, as the canes grow, the leaves unfurl and the plant turns green. The mature canes are hollow and have a characteristic pattern of purple speckles. The leaves are long and triangular (15 x 10 cm) and pointed at the tip, with a characteristic flattened leaf base. In late summer it produces masses of creamy white flowers.

**IMPACT** · Once established, Asiatic knotweed forms dense stands that shade and crowd out all other vegetation, displacing native flora and fauna.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Reynoutria sachalinensis* (and hybrids) · giant knotweed



Herb



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Fallopia sachalinensis*, *Polygonum sachalinense*

**DESCRIPTION** · Giant knotweed is similar to Asiatic knotweed but is taller, growing to heights of 1.5 m. Note: Hybrid plants have characters intermediate between the two parents.

**IMPACT** · Once established, giant knotweed forms dense stands that shade and crowd out all other vegetation, displacing native flora and fauna.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Rhamnus alaternus* · rhamnus, evergreen buckthorn



Tree



Photo courtesy of Jonathon Boow, Auckland Regional Council

**DESCRIPTION** · This plant is an evergreen shrub that grows to 2-3 m tall. Ovalish leathery leaves (15-60 x 10-30 mm) are glossy and slightly toothed. It has small green petal-less fragrant flowers (3-4 mm in diameter) which are produced from May to November. Flowers are followed by showy glossy berries (5-7 mm long) which ripen from dark-red to black from December to January. It is commonly mistaken for a native plant.

**IMPACT** · Rhamnus forms dense stands and prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings. It acts as a low shrub on windswept rocky shores or as an understorey shrub in tall canopy. Seeds are capable of germinating and growing through a thick sward of kikuyu grass.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Rhododendron ponticum* · Wild rhododendron, pontic rhododendron, pontian rhododendron



Shrub



**DESCRIPTION** · Wild rhododendron is a dense suckering shrub growing to 5 m tall. The leaves are evergreen, 6-18cm long and 2-5 cm broad. The flowers are a violet purple, often with a small greenish-yellow spots or streaks, and are about 3.5-5 cm in diameter. While wild rhododendron resembles the cultivated garden rhododendrons, it is the only rhododendron in New Zealand that spreads easily by setting down roots from its branches.

**IMPACT** · Wild rhododendron is a serious pest in Britain but isn't widely naturalised in New Zealand yet. It forms dense patches as the branches take root and form an impenetrable mass. The thick leaved canopy starves native plants of light and makes it difficult for anything to grow and establish underneath. As well as spreading by rooting branches, the wind disperses the tiny seeds.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Sagittaria montevidensis* · arrowhead



Aquatic Plant



Top photo courtesy of D. Burnett

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · sagittaria, Californian arrowhead

**SYNONYMS** · *Sagittaria andina*, *Sagittaria multinervia*, *Sagittaria pugioniformis* var. *montevidensis*

**DESCRIPTION** · Arrowhead is a perennial aquatic herb that grows in static or slow-moving shallow fresh water, such as drains and pond margins. It has a thick rootstock without creeping stems (unlike other sagittarias). Its large glossy arrow-shaped leaves are carried on stalks of up to 1 m above the water. Its flowers are composed of three large white petals with a purple blotch at the base.

**IMPACT** · Arrowhead is an invasive weed with the potential to block waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photo courtesy of H. Pene

**SYNONYMS** · *Sagittaria graminea* var. *platyphylla*

**DESCRIPTION** · *Sagittaria* is an emergent aquatic plant that grows up to 80 cm in height, and is found in flowing or still fresh water and in marshes and swamps. It has long rhizomes which produce small tubers similar to *S. sagittifolia*. Large, lance-shaped leaves are held above the water on stems. It also produces strap-shaped submerged leaves. White flowers (6 cm across) are produced on spikes about the same height as leaves, each producing hundreds of seeds.

**IMPACT** · *Sagittaria* is an invasive weed with the potential to block waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Sagittaria sagittifolia* · arrowhead, Hawaiian arrowhead



Aquatic Plant



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Arrowhead is a herbaceous aquatic perennial that is very similar to *S. montevidensis*, the difference being its production of rhizomes and tubers. It is not known to flower in New Zealand.

**IMPACT** · Arrowhead is an invasive weed with the potential to block waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Salix cinerea* · grey willow



Tree



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · pussy willow, grey sallow

**SYNONYMS** · *Salix atrocinerea*

**DESCRIPTION** · Grey willow is a deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow to 7 m tall. This plant spreads by seed or by suckering from the roots. Plants are either male or female. Leaves (20-70 x 15-35 mm) are oval and serrated. Topsides of leaves are shiny, and undersides of leaves are grey-blue with dense soft grey hairs underneath. Erect cylindrical catkins (15-35 mm long) are produced from September to October before leaves appear. Seed capsules are bivalved and contain many seeds which have fluffy outgrowths and are dispersed by wind.

**IMPACT** · This plant replaces native species in wetlands, and forms vast dense stands and thickets. It causes blockages, flooding and structural changes in waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Salix fragilis* · crack willow



Tree



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Crack willow is a deciduous tree that grows to 25 m. This tree has spreading rather than hanging branches with rough and fissured bark. Root suckers and rootlets are bright-red when in or near water. Shoots and leaves are silky when young but become hairless as they mature. Leaves are narrow lance-shaped with tiny serrations. Undersides of leaves are pale, and the upper surface is shiny, green and often covered with bright-red galls. Narrow downward-curving catkins (40-75 mm long) appear from September to October. As there are only male plants in New Zealand, no fruit is formed unless hybridised with other species such as golden willow. Spread is by stem fragments carried by water movement which readily produce new plants.

**IMPACT** · This plant replaces native species in wetlands, and forms vast dense stands and thickets. It causes blockages, flooding and structural changes in waterways.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · *Salvinia* is a perennial aquatic fern that forms floating mats on still waters and swamps. It has crowded brown-green leaves up to 4 cm long that are folded across the midrib. The upper surfaces of the leaves are densely covered in strongly water-resistant hairs. Finely dissected, submerged root-like structures hang down into the water, often with chains of small round spore-bearing organs.

**IMPACT** · *Salvinia* quickly forms extensive mats, completely smothering waterways and badly affecting water quality. It can double in area within 10 days. The mats kill off native plants, attract breeding mosquitoes, block dams and irrigation systems, remove oxygen from the water and create a drowning risk for people and animals.

**WHAT TO DO** · All sightings must be reported to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.

## *Schinus terebinthifolius* · Christmas berry



Tree



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · Brazilian pepper tree

**DESCRIPTION** · Christmas berry is an evergreen shrub or tree up to 6 m tall. It has a short trunk, which is usually hidden by dense and intertwining branches. It has reddish aromatic leaves with three to 13 finely toothed leaflets. Its white flowers produce short-branched clusters of glossy, green, juicy fruit that turn red and desiccate into a papery shell surrounding the single seed.

**IMPACT** · Christmas berry is a serious weed in a number of countries overseas. It is only recently naturalised in New Zealand, but sightings in the wild are becoming more common.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Schoenoplectus californicus* · Californian bulrush



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**SYNONYMS** · *Scirpus californicus*

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a large aquatic perennial sedge, with tall rounded or triangular bright-green stems, growing up to 3 m tall. Instead of leaves it has thin papery sheathing bracts at the base of the stem, which produce small groups of flowers on drooping stalks near the tip. It grows from dense woody rhizomes buried in bottom sediments, usually in tidal reaches of large rivers like the Waikato and Northern Wairoa. It is very similar to the native *S. tabernaemontani*, which has bluish-green stems and erect flower stalks (not drooping).

**IMPACT** · It forms tall dense beds that colonise mobile sand deposits and river margins, where it may displace smaller native species.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Selaginella kraussiana* · African club moss, selaginella



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · This is a small carpet-forming fern-like plant with long fine roots and creeping, slender, irregularly branched stems. The tiny leaves (up to 4 mm long) are in four rows along the stem. The strobili, or cones that produce spores, are usually four-sided and stand up from the stem.

**IMPACT** · This species invades the forest floor, inhibiting the establishment of native plant seedlings, but opens the way for succession by more aggressive weeds, especially vines. It is a classic example of a small initial impact leading to a catastrophic outcome.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Solanum marginatum* · white edged nightshade



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · White edged nightshade is a perennial shrub that can grow up to 5 m. It is easily recognised by characteristic prickly leaves that have a chalky-white underside and edge of the upper side. It has white flowers, sometimes with purplish veins, which bloom in clusters of two to 10 at the edges of branches. Berries, which mature from green to yellow, are borne on the end of stout prickly stalks.

**IMPACT** · White edged nightshade invades the forest floor, inhibiting the establishment of native plant seedlings and leading to higher light levels and succession by more aggressive weeds, especially vines. It is a classic example of a small initial impact leading to a catastrophic outcome. This species also invades pastures.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



## *Solanum mauritianum* · woolly nightshade



Shrub



Photo courtesy of Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · tobacco weed, wild tobacco tree

**DESCRIPTION** · Woolly nightshade is a spreading capsicum-smelling shrub that grows to 10 m. The entire shrub is covered in dusty hairs. Leaves (10-35 x 3-15 cm) are velvety, oval, and grey-green in colour. Dense clusters of mauve to purple flowers (15-20 mm in diameter) with yellow anthers appear from January to December. Flowers are followed by clusters of round berries (1 cm diameter) that ripen from hard green to soft, dull yellow.

**IMPACT** · This shrub forms dense, often pure stands. It inhibits or prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings and slows the regeneration rate of native forests. It also invades pastures, reducing pasture production. It is possibly poisonous to livestock.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Tradescantia fluminensis* · wandering Jew



Ground Cover



Photos courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Wandering Jew is a trailing, soft, hairless, perennial ground cover with succulent creeping stems that root at all nodes touching the ground. Dark-green, shiny, smooth and slightly fleshy leaves (3-6 cm long ) are oval, with pointed tips. White flowers (2 cm in diameter), produced from December to January, are three-petalled and in small clusters. Seeds are not produced.

**IMPACT** · This plant smothers ground in light to deep shade, preventing the seedlings of native species from establishing. It causes habitats to open and be invaded by exotic shrubs and vines. Mats growing on riverbanks can break away with water flow and contribute to flooding. It is spread by stem fragments, and via human activity such as the dumping of garden waste.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Tropaeolum speciosum* · Chilean flame creeper



Vine



Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Chilean flame creeper is a perennial vine with slender stems and delicate five-fingered leaves. Its leaf stalks coil round, allowing the plant to climb. It has scarlet flowers that are about 4 cm across, followed by blue berries.

**IMPACT** · Chilean flame creeper can suppress and replace native species by shading and smothering. It invades small gaps in native forest.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.



**DESCRIPTION** · Coltsfoot is a perennial mat-forming herb with long creeping rhizomes. Its large, leathery, kidney-shaped leaves are finely toothed at the margins. The top surface is smooth and green but the underside is covered with greyish-white woolly hairs. The leaves appear after flowers have faded and set seed. The dandelion-like yellow flowers appear in early spring, and are followed by dandelion-like seed heads. The plants die back in autumn.

**IMPACT** · Coltsfoot forms low-growing mats with the potential to swamp low-growing native species, especially on gravel soils. The roots and flowers contain alkaloids that can cause liver damage.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Typha latifolia* · great reedmace



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · cumbungi, common cattail

**DESCRIPTION** · Great reedmace is an erect perennial aquatic herb that grows up to 3 m tall. Its stems grow from thick underground rhizomes, and it has wide flat sheathing leaves which are pale-greyish-green. It flowers in early summer, producing distinctive dark-brown to black erect sausage-shaped flower spikes and fruit.

**IMPACT** · Great reedmace forms dense growths in shallow sheltered water bodies, displacing native vegetation. It could potentially hybridise with our native raupo (*Typha orientalis*).

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Utricularia arenaria*, *Utricularia livida*, *Utricularia sandersonii*



Herb



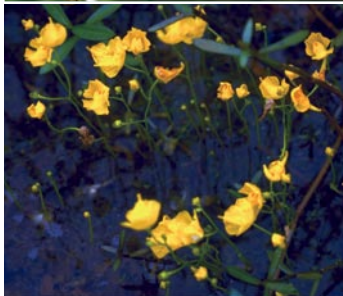
Photo courtesy of Department of Conservation

**DESCRIPTION** · Utricularias are creeping terrestrial bladderworts. They have broad green leaves up to 2.5 cm long that lie flat on the ground, thin creeping stems (stolons) at the base of these leaves, and underground roots containing tiny “sacs” which trap insects. The main difference between the Utricularias are their flowers, which are produced in summer and range from white to pale blue/mauve. *U. sandersonii* has an upper flower lobe divided into two spreading lobes (like rabbit ears). *U. livida* and *U. arenaria* both have undivided upper flower lobes, but have a differing flower spur length. *U. arenaria* has a long spur projecting below the flower lobe, whereas *U. livida* has a shorter spur hidden behind the flower lobe.

**IMPACT** · Bladderworts have specially adapted to low nutrient environments, such as bogs and swamps, and outcompete native bladderworts also adapted to similar environments.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## Utricularia gibba · bladderwort, humped bladderwort



Photos courtesy of Plant Protection Society / P. Champion

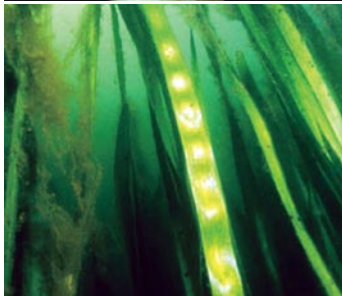
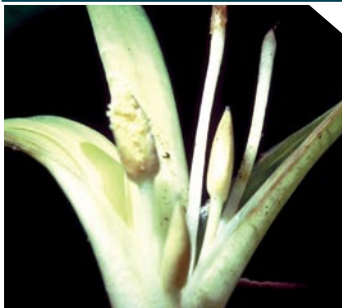
**SYNONYMS** · was initially identified as *Utricularia biflora* (Flora vol. 4) *Utricularia exoleta*

**DESCRIPTION** · Bladderworts are mat-forming algae-like perennials that are submerged just below the surface of the water or entangled with other plants. *U. gibba* is a carnivorous plant with complex modified underwater appendages or “sacs”. These sacs trap insects and other small animals. It has no roots, and very thin stems with filament-like leaves which are either single or paired with sacs (1-2 mm long). From December to May yellow flowers (6 mm in diameter) are produced that protrude up to 20 cm above the water surface. **There are several native species of bladderwort, including a very similar plant (*Utricularia australis*) which is endangered.**

**IMPACT** · Bladderwort has specially adapted to low-nutrient environments, such as bogs and swamps, and outcompetes native bladderworts also adapted to similar environments.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.





Photos courtesy of Paul Champion

**SYNONYMS** · *Vallisneria* “Lake Pupuke variety” under Noxious Plants Act 1978

**DESCRIPTION** · Eelgrass is a submerged perennial freshwater aquatic plant which can grow up to 5.5 m tall. It is bottom-rooting with stout rhizomes, and produces long ribbon-like light-green leaves from nodes at regular intervals. Only male plants are known in New Zealand, with large pollen-filled sacs produced at the base of mature plants. These are released when ripe, with pollen spreading over the surface of the water.

**IMPACT** · Eelgrass forms dense beds of vegetation which displace native plants, and may affect recreational activities, impede navigation and obstruct water out-takes.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.





Photo courtesy of Paul Champion

**SYNONYMS** · *Vallisneria* “Meola Creek variety” under Noxious Plants Act 1978

**DESCRIPTION** · *V. spiralis* is a submerged perennial freshwater plant. The leaves are generally narrower than *V. gigantea*. Only male plants are known in New Zealand, with inconspicuous flowers produced on the end of a very long spirally coiled pedicel. The pedicel arises from a rosette at the base of the plant which reaches the surface.

**IMPACT** · Eelgrass forms dense beds of vegetation which displace native plants, and may affect recreational activities, impede navigation and obstruct water out-takes.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Zantedeschia* “Green Goddess” · green goddess



Herb



Photos courtesy of Trevor James

**DESCRIPTION** · Green goddess is similar to the white-flowered arum lily, but is most easily distinguished by its green flowers. It is an evergreen plant with large arrow-shaped leaves, growing in clumps up to 1.5 m tall. The flower spathe is white at the base but green towards the tip. The amount of green on the flower can vary. Fruits remain somewhat encased by the old flower spathe.

**IMPACT** · Green goddess is a common garden escapee, forming colonies in the wild. It is spread by birds and is particularly invasive in wet areas.

**WHAT TO DO** · Contact your regional council to determine the status of this species and responsibility for control and/or advice on control.

## *Zizania latifolia* · Manchurian wild rice



Marginal Aquatic  
Plant



Photos courtesy of Paul Champion, NIWA & Trevor James

**OTHER COMMON NAMES** · Manchurian rice grass

**DESCRIPTION** · Manchurian wild rice is a tall rhizome-producing perennial grass that grows up to 3 m tall. It has harsh, erect, dull-grey-green leaves (2-3 cm wide) up to 2.5 m long, which have a stout midrib and taper to a point. From November to December a purplish or red-brown flower head (40-60 cm long) is produced. Unlike raupo, which can look similar, it remains green over winter.

**IMPACT** · It forms dense long-lived stands on land and water margins, overtopping other riparian species. It blocks drains and destabilises stopbanks, promoting flooding, and also invades flood-prone pastures and wetlands.

**WHAT TO DO** · In Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Wellington contact your regional council. In all other regions contact MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66 if you find this plant.

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*Te Papa Atawhai*



Nursery & Garden Industry Association



## Acknowledgements

Parties of the accord (contact details can be found at the front of the booklet):



The background is a solid green color with a pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent circles of varying shades of green. A white horizontal line runs across the middle of the page, and a white vertical line runs down the right side, creating a grid-like structure. The text 'New Zealand Government' is located in the bottom left corner, with 'New Zealand' underlined.

New Zealand Government