

5.11. PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR PEST PLANT COMMUNITY PEST CONTROL AREAS

Adopted by resolution of the Northland Regional Council 17 November 2004.

Description of the Pest

These pest plant species are recognised by their ecological and biological attributes to pose significant risk to the viability of natural and economically significant areas, soil resources, water quality, enjoyment of the recreational value of significant areas and the relationship of Maori with their culture and traditions.

African club moss	(<i>Selaginella kraussiana</i>)
Alligator weed	(<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>)
Banana passionfruit	(<i>Passiflora mixta</i> , <i>P. mollissima</i>)
Broom	(<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)
Brush wattle	(<i>Paraserianthus lophantha</i>)
Buddleia	(<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)
Boneseed	(<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>)
Cape honey flower	(<i>Melianthus major</i>)
Cape ivy	(<i>Senecio angulatus</i>)
Climbing Asparagus	(<i>Asparagus scandens</i>)
Cotoneaster	(<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i> , <i>C. franchetii</i>)
Elaeagnus	(<i>Elaeagnus x reflexa</i>)
Egeria	(<i>Egeria densa</i>)
Elodea	(<i>Elodea canadensis</i>)
German ivy	(<i>Senecio mikanioides</i>)
Gorse	(<i>Ulex spp.</i>)
Giant reed	(<i>Arundo donax</i>)
Glyceria	(<i>Glyceria maxima</i> , <i>G. fluitans</i> , <i>G. declinata</i>)
Great bindweed	(<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>)
Grey and crack willows	(<i>Salix cinerea</i> , <i>S. fragilis</i>)
Himalayan honeysuckle	(<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>)
Hornwort	(<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>)
Japanese honeysuckle	(<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)
Japanese spindle tree	(<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>)
Lagarosiphon	(<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>)
Lantana	(<i>Lantana camara</i> var. <i>aculeata</i>)
Mexican daisy	(<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>)
Mignonette vine	(<i>Dipogon lignosus</i>)
Mothplant	(<i>Araujia sericifera</i>)
Oxylobium	(<i>Oxylobium lanceolatum</i>)
Pampas grass	(<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> , <i>C. jubata</i>)
Parrots feather	(<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>)
Periwinkle	(<i>Vinca major</i>)
Plectranthus	(<i>Plectranthus ciliatus</i> , <i>P. ecklonii</i> , <i>P. grandis</i>)
Privet	(<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> , <i>L. sinense</i>)
Queensland poplar	(<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>)
Ragwort	(<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>)
Smilax	(<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>)
Sweet pea shrub	(<i>Polygala myrtifolia</i>)
Taiwan cherry	(<i>Prunus campanulata</i>)
Tuber ladder fern	(<i>Nephrolepis cordifolia</i>)
Velvet groundsel	(<i>Senecio petasitis</i>)
Wandering jew	(<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>)
White monkey apple	(<i>Acmena smithii</i>)
Woolly nightshade	(<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>)
Wild ginger	(<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> , <i>H. flavescens</i>)

Distribution of the Pest

These plants are found throughout Northland. They are generally present in or near sites of human habitation, where they were once planted for amenity, decorative or erosion control. The plants inhabit bush, gardens, roadsides, ungrazed wasteland areas, wetlands, banks of streams and waterbodies.

Problems Caused

These pest plants severely damage native ecosystems by smothering existing vegetation, preventing native plant regeneration, resulting in a change in the structure of the ecosystem that has an impact on plants and animals. Many of these pest plants often form pure associations in bush, which may create barriers to recreational activities, e.g. tramping. When growing on riverbanks or in waterbodies, some species catch flood debris, impede flood flows and impact on water quality. Waterweeds may also make recreational activities such as boating and swimming very difficult.

Where a pest plant becomes a dominant land cover, the productivity of the land may be severely reduced, stock or crops may be devalued by injury (e.g. toxicity) or damage (e.g. smothering), and cultural and traditional values associated with a significant area may also be affected.

Parties Affected

Affected parties include private land occupiers and groups responsible for managing significant areas, reserves and roadsides and the general community which may access significant areas for recreational activities.

Impact Evaluation

<u>Impact</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Potential</u>
Cultural	Medium	High
Ecological	Medium	High
Human Health	Low	Low
Soil & Water	Low	Medium
Production	Medium	High
Public Infrastructure	Low	Medium
Public Safety	Low	Medium
Recreation	Low	High
Trade (International)	-	-
Overall Regional	Medium	High

Regional Effects

All these plants pose a significant threat to Northland's indigenous ecosystems because of their wide distribution and invasive characteristics.

Need to Intervene

The control of pest plants in Northland is important to sectors of the community for cultural, ecological, recreational and economic reasons. A regional strategy involving advice, publicity and community-initiated control of pest plants in targeted areas is desirable.

Goal (Long Term)

- To prevent the deterioration of areas with significant ecological and economic values, including associated soil resources, water quality, recreational and cultural values

Objectives (Five Year)

- To require and maintain total control of the targeted pest plants in designated community control areas in accordance with the management strategy.

Tactics and Technical Methods to be Used

Education	Advice to land occupiers. Community meetings and field days. Media releases and publicity brochures.
Regulation	Rule 6.4.2.9. Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Plants Rule 6.4.2.14. Total Clearance of Pest Plants within Areas under Community Control Schemes Failure to comply with these rules creates an offence under Section 154 (r) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
Services	Regional Council assistance and facilitation for community control programmes, including the development of a management plan, and limited control operations for the selected pest plants within the designated area negotiated between the Council and affected land occupiers (see criteria for identifying significant areas in Procedures for Establishing Community Pest Control Areas). Approval of a Community Pest Plant Control Area by Council may be made with provisos or amendments depending on site specifics and distribution density of the infestations. District Councils and Transit New Zealand will control pest plants targeted in management plans for roadsides within designated Community Pest Plant Control Areas. Biological control investigations and experimentation for pest plants to continue. Integration with other pest management strategies.

Tactics and Technical Methods Rejected

Services	Regional Council service delivery eradication (plants too widespread).
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Effects of the Strategy

Beneficial	Protection and enhancement of ecological and economic values, including associated soil resources, water quality, recreational and cultural attributes of these areas.
Detrimental	Control activities may damage non-target species.

Cost of Strategy

The Strategy is expected to cost the Regional Council approximately \$50,000 each year from 2005. \$10, 000 internal resources costs. \$40,000 operational control costs as part of the proposed Community Pest Control Areas budget.

Funding

The Council's costs of implementing the Strategy are to be funded from the regional land management rate.

Management Agency

The Northland Regional Council is responsible for managing the Strategy.

Relationship of Strategy to Other Pest Management Strategies

The Auckland Regional Council lists many of these pest plants in their Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Monitoring and Reporting

Areas to be targeted as part of community control programmes will be outlined in the annual Operational Plan. Progress towards Strategy achieving objectives will each year be recorded in the Regional Council's Annual Report or LTCCP as appropriate.

Term of Strategy **5 years**

Rules

6.2.4.9. Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Plants

- (i) No person shall distribute to other persons or offer for sale, or hold in a premises where plants are offered for sale, any pest plant which is subject to a Northland Regional Council pest management strategy.
- (ii) No person shall distribute or offer for sale to other persons any agricultural lime, roading aggregate, sand or fill material, which contains the seeds, or any other vegetative material capable of propagation from a pest plant subject of a Northland Regional Council pest management strategy.
- (iii) No person shall transport or use any equipment, machinery or product which contains the seeds or any other vegetative material capable of propagation from a pest plant subject of a Pest Management Strategy.
- (iv) No person shall plant, transplant or redistribute any pest plant subject of a Pest Management Strategy.

6.4.2.14 Total Clearance of Pest Plants within Areas Under Community Control Schemes

Where a community group is undertaking control of pest plants according to a community control programme approved by the Regional Council, the occupier or owner of a property on which the pest plants are growing shall prepare and implement a programme aimed at achieving eradication of that plant on that property.