

3. PEST MANAGEMENT

This section describes the management categories under which pest animals and pest plants have been designated.

3.1. INTERGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

All pests targeted in these Strategies are acknowledged to pose significant threats to important values in the Northland Region. To protect these values integrated management of all relevant pests, rather than a species led process, will make better use of resources. This type of approach lends itself to site led projects, such as has been adopted under Community Pest Control Areas, where targeting several pests at once can accelerate protection and enhancement of the values of the area.

The Northland Regional Council supports and promotes the implementation of integrated programmes. Therefore, individual Strategies can be, where appropriate, implemented together to control a range of pests.

3.2. PEST ANIMAL DESIGNATIONS

The following table includes all pest animals contained within Northland Regional Pest Management Strategies. Each pest animal has a management designation/s with the definition of the designation provided after the table.

Common Name	Service Delivery	Cost Recovery	Surveillance	Community Control
Cat – Feral		*		*
Deer – Feral	*	*		
Ferret		*		*
Goat – Wild	*	*		*
Hare		*		*
Magpie		*		
Myna		*		
Possum	*	*		*
Rabbit	*	*		*
Rat		*		*
Rook	*		*	
Stoat		*		*
Wallaby	*		*	
Weasel		*		*

Service Delivery

Refers to pest animals that are of limited distribution or density within the Northland Region, defined areas of the Region, or areas of economic or ecological significance for which the Northland Regional Council shall assume responsibility for funding and implementing appropriate management programmes. The long term goal is to eradicate these animals from the Region or defined areas of the Region.

Cost Recovery

The Northland Regional Council may control these pests on a cost recovery basis where landowners have requested control work to be undertaken.

Community Control Pests

These are pest animals that can be controlled within a designated Community Pest Control Area. Within these areas land occupiers are required to control selected pest animals to levels specified by a management plan that will have been prepared by a community group and approved by Council for each Community Pest Control Area.

Surveillance Pest Animals

Refers to pest animals that have been identified as posing a potential risk to the Northland Region. The public will be encouraged to report the presence of these pests to the Northland Regional Council. The Northland Regional Council shall implement surveillance and control work of these pest animals if they are found in Northland.

3.3. PEST PLANT DESIGNATIONS

The following table includes all pest plants contained within the Northland Regional Pest Management Strategies. Each pest plant has a management designation/s with the definition of the designation provided after the table

Common Name	Service Delivery	Total Control	Boundary Control	Quarry	Community Control	Roadside	Surveillance	Advice Only
African Feathergrass	*							
Alligator Weed								*
Bathurst Bur		*						
Broom			*	*		*		
Californian Thistle		*						
Eel Grass	*						*	
Entire Marshwort	*						*	
Fringed Water Lily	*						*	
Gorse			*	*		*		
Houttuynia	*						*	
Hydrilla	*						*	
Lantana	*							
Manchurian Ricegrass	*							
Mothplant					*	*		
Nardoo	*						*	
Nassella Tussock	*							
Needlegrass	*						*	
Nodding Thistle		*						
Old mans Beard	*						*	
Oxygen Weed								*
Pampas			*	*		*		
Parrots Feather								*
Privet			*		*	*		
Ragwort			*					
Rhamnus	*						*	
Senegal Tea	*						*	
Skeleton Weed	*						*	
Spartina	*	*						
Water Poppy	*						*	
Wild Ginger			*	*	*	*		

Service Delivery

Refers to pest plants that are of limited distribution or density within the Northland Region, or defined areas of the Region, for which the Northland Regional Council shall assume responsibility for funding and implementing appropriate management programmes. The aim is to eradicate these plants from the Region or defined areas of the Region, over a period of time, which may exceed the life of these Strategies. The reasons for the Northland Regional Council assuming responsibility for the control of these plants are that:

- a) These plants require specialist expertise in identification and control; and/or
- b) It is more cost-effective for the Northland Regional Council to control the plant than to enforce occupier control.

Plants will be treated by a recognised method, at intervals that will ensure the infestations are controlled, reduced and eventually eradicated. Further to this requirement, service delivery pest plants are banned from sale, propagation and distribution.

Total Control Pest Plants

Refers to pest plants, in defined areas, which land occupiers are required to treat whenever they appear on their land. The objective is to minimise the impacts of these pest plants on the environment or people's health and/or activities by ensuring all sites are treated adequately. For some of these species, eradication may be achievable in the long term. Plants will be treated by a recognised method at intervals that will ensure the population is controlled and the number of plants reduced, by preventing seeding. Further to this requirement, Total Control pest plants are banned from sale, propagation and distribution.

Boundary Control Pest Plants

Refers to pest plants, in defined areas, which occupiers are required to treat in boundary situations. The objective of boundary control is to prevent infestation of neighbouring properties. Plants will be treated by a recognised method at intervals that will ensure the pest plant is controlled for an "appropriate distance" (defined for each pest plant). Further to this requirement, Boundary Control pest plants are banned from sale, propagation and distribution.

Quarry Control Pest Plants

Refers to those pest plants that the owners or occupiers of quarries and metal stockpile areas are required to control or eradicate from these areas. The objective is to prevent the spread of pest plants seeds or viable material via roading metal.

Community Control Pest Plants

These are specified pest plants that have the status of total control pest plants within a designated Community Pest Control Area. The group responsible for setting up a Community Pest Control Area must submit a management plan for the designated area, which will require land occupiers to totally control the selected pest plants under the enforcement provisions of the Biosecurity Act.

Roadside Control Pest Plants

Refers to those pest plants which road controlling authorities are required to progressively clear from the Regions road reserves, in accordance with an approved programme. Roads are considered to be a major vector in the spread of pest plants and the objective is to prevent them spreading from road reserves onto neighbouring land.

Surveillance Pest Plants

The Northland Regional Council shall assume responsibility for implementing appropriate management programmes with the aim of eradicating these pest plants if found in Northland. Surveillance pest plants have been identified as being of potential high risk to the Northland Region. The Regional Council will also seek to prevent their establishment or spread by prohibiting their sale, propagation and distribution. This will be achieved by Authorised Persons regularly monitoring plant retail and wholesale outlets for these pest plants.

The Northland Regional Council will also disseminate technical information on control methods and the ecology of these plants, and fund research into biological control options. Research into their distribution and environmental impacts may also be carried out during the life of the Strategy. There is, however, no legal requirement for landowners/occupiers to control established infestations.

Advice Only

The Northland Regional Council will provide advice only for these pests.

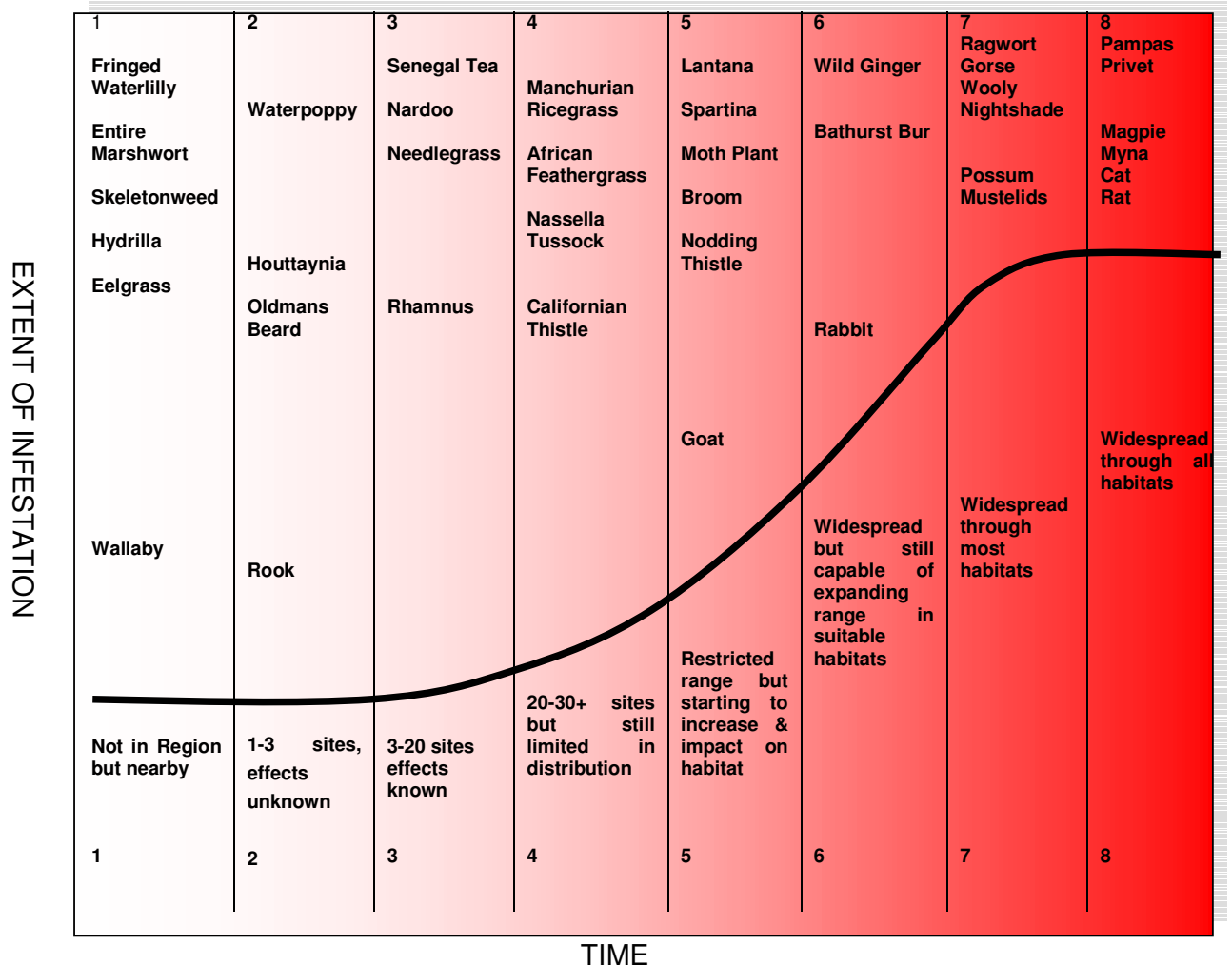
3.4. INFESTATION CURVE

The Northland Regional Council has adopted the following ‘infestation curve model’ to guide decision making on pest management issues. It is a simple descriptive model that demonstrates basic pest population dynamics and helps to determine the appropriate Strategy objectives and management programmes for individual pests.

Generally, the lower a pest is situated on the curve the more its distribution is restricted. Control of pests situated near the start of the curve will be the most cost effective as eradication is feasible. Benefits of controlling these low incidence pests accrue to most landowners/occupiers throughout the Region, as it is a preventative action.

Those pests higher on the curve are more widespread and therefore are more difficult and costly to control, with the beneficiary of control work likely to be the immediate landowner/occupier. Attempts to eradicate widespread pest plants are unlikely to be successful, although there may be benefit in controlling these pests in areas of high conservation value or areas where they are less common.

The diagram outlines the model and indicates where on the curve some of the Northland’s pests lie.



The infestation curve is a model and only to be used as a guide.

The infestation curve model has three phases divided into eight zones:

- First is the 'lag phase' which is the initial slow establishment phase – when a pest has just started to become established and is very limited in its distribution (curve is flat, zones 1-3);
- Second is the 'explosion phase' when a pest is still restricted in its range but densities and range are increasing rapidly (curve is steep, zones 4-6);
- Third is the 'established phase' when growth slows as the pest fills most of its available habitat (the curve levels off again, zones 7-8).

3.5. COMMUNITY PEST CONTROL AREAS

The Northland Regional Council Community Pest Control Areas (CPCA) Policy provides for the Council to carry out the initial knockdown of both pest plants and pest animals that threaten particular values identified by a community group for a defined control area. The Council may also supply subsidised resources for ongoing control operations. Once the pest population density has been reduced to a pre-determined level (pests no longer pose a threat to the identified values and/or a level at which it is practical for the land occupier or the group to control), the land occupiers and/or any associated group, assumes responsibility for maintenance.

Each proposal for establishing a CPCA must be put to the Council, along with staff recommendations. Council Biosecurity Officers will provide support in the form of information, advice and assistance with site-specific control plans. Where applicable, Biosecurity Officers will require land occupiers to control the selected pests under the enforcement provisions of the Biosecurity Act.

Council Officers will undertake an evaluation to:

- Establish the feasibility of controlling the infestations, including, but not limited to, assessing the distribution and density of the pest;
- Assess the level of landholder and public support, both for the initial work and for ongoing maintenance;
- Assess the biodiversity, economic, and cultural values at risk;
- Assess the practicality of achieving the planned objectives.

Council approval may be made with provisos or amendments depending on site attributes, distribution and density of the pests. If the Council resolves to establish a CPCA the pests defined in the proposal become total control pests, requiring the landholder to follow a programme of maintenance control following the initial knockdown.

The Council has a set of procedures for the establishment of a CPCA. These procedures contain detail relating to the establishment of CPCA for both pest plant and pest animals.

3.6. UNWANTED ORGANISMS AND THE NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD

An 'unwanted organism' means any organism that a chief technical officer believes is capable, or potentially capable, of causing unwanted harm to any natural and physical resources or human health. This includes, for example, plants, animals and diseases. The designation means that it is an offence under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act to harbour, sell, propagate or distribute those organisms anywhere in New Zealand. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has promoted the establishment of a National Pest Plant Accord (the Accord). The National Pest Plant Accord is a cooperative agreement between Regional Councils and government departments with biosecurity responsibilities (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Conservation). Under the Accord, all signatory Regional Councils will undertake surveillance at plant nurseries and other commercial outlets, to prevent the propagation, sale and/or distribution of an agreed list of pest plants (see Appendix 2). The NPPA list is dynamic, with additions made periodically via consultation with a technical advisory group. A full list of unwanted organisms and the subset of plants listed in the Accord is available on the MAF website.