5.4. PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR BROOM

Description of the Pest
Broom *(Cystisus scoparius)* and Montpellier broom (*Teline monspessulana*) are two related evergreen shrubs. They grow to about 2.5 metres in height, and have green tri-foliate leaves. The plants have conspicuous seed pods and yellow pea like flowers.

Distribution of the Pest
Isolated infestations of broom are found throughout Northland, typically on low-fertility farmland areas which are cold and wet. They are also found along roadsides and amongst low-canopy native vegetation. Most infestations are in the Far North district with the largest at Ruapekapeka and in the Kaimaumau swamp.

Problems Caused
Broom invades pasture, plantation forests and low-canopy or regenerating native ecosystems. It reduces the production from developed areas and affects native ecosystems by replacing desirable vegetation. Along roadsides, it makes maintenance more difficult.

Parties Affected
The main parties affected are landowners, particularly farmers and forest owners. Bodies responsible for managing conservation areas, reserves and roads are also affected.

Impact Evaluation

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

Regional Effects
Broom has an adverse effect on primary production and on the natural environment in some parts of Northland. No figures are available on production losses but they would be significant in some areas. Its invasion of regionally important, low canopy ecosystems like the Kaimaumau Swamp make it a pest of Regional significance.

Need to Intervene

The invasive nature of broom and its ability to affect production and Regionally important ecosystems makes it a threat to Northland. Cleared farmland needs to be kept free of the plant so production can be maintained. Biological control and other programmes need to be further developed to prevent the plant further infesting the conservation estate. A Regional approach to these matters is considered necessary.

Goal (Long Term)

- To limit the spread of broom onto productive land and reduce its impact on native ecosystems.

Objectives (Five Year)

- To maintain all clear land free from broom.
- To clear broom from all quarries, mines, metal stock pile areas and limeworks and 2/3 of the Region's roadsides.
- To establish biological control programs on sites of widespread infestation, particularly those containing low canopy native vegetation.

Tactics and Technical Methods to be Used

Education
Advice to landowners and other interested parties.
Community meetings and field days, media releases and publicity brochures
Research (survey of infestations).

Regulation

Rule 6.4.2.1	Clearance of Broom, Gorse and Ragwort Inside All Property Boundaries
Rule 6.4.2.2	Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger Inside Roadside Property Boundaries
Rule 6.4.2.3	Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas grass and Ragwort from Quarries, Mines and Other Sites
Rule 6.4.2.6	Clearance Along Roadsides of Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger by Roading Authorities
Rule 6.4.2.9	Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Plants

Failure to comply with these rules creates an offence under section 154 (r) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Services
Regional Council biological control service.

Tactics and Technical Methods Rejected

Economic
Subsidies on herbicides (not effective).

Services
Regional Council eradication service for whole Region (plant too widespread).

Effects of the Strategy

Beneficial
Enhanced primary production.
Enhanced ecological values of conservation areas.

Detrimental
Possible chemical damage to non-target species.

Cost of Strategy
The Strategy is estimated to cost the Regional Council approximately $12,000 each year.

Funding
The Strategy is funded from a Land Management Rate. Landowners will be responsible for the cost of all control work, except biological programmes established by the Regional Council under the Strategy.

Management Agency
The Northland Regional Council is responsible for managing the Strategy.

Relationship of Strategy to Other Pest Management Strategies
The Auckland Regional Council has a Pest Management Strategy for Broom.

Monitoring and Reporting
The Northland Regional Council will maintain a database of properties as they are inspected, recording infestations of broom and ensuring compliance with boundary clearance rules.

Term of Strategy **5 years**

Rules

6.4.2.1 Clearance of Broom, Gorse and Ragwort Inside All Property Boundaries

Every occupier shall maintain a strip of land inside each property boundary free of broom, gorse and ragwort where such land adjoins other land or a road which is free of the said Pest Plants or is being actively controlled by adjoining occupiers.

The pest free strip of land shall be of the following dimensions:
i) Broom and gorse - 10 metres inside each boundary
ii) Ragwort - 50 metres inside each boundary

6.4.2.2 Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger Inside Roadside Property Boundaries

Every occupier shall maintain a 10 metre wide strip of land free of broom, gorse pampas grass, privet and wild ginger, inside each property boundary which adjoins a road, where the road controlling authority is controlling the said plants on the adjacent roadside.

6.4.2.3 Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas grass and Ragwort From Quarries, Mines, Limeworks and Stockpile Areas

Every occupier and operator of a quarry, mine or stockpile of natural overburden or other similar material shall maintain the work area and a 50 metre strip of land around the work area or stockpile free of broom, gorse, pampas grass and ragwort.

6.4.2.6. Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger from Roadsides by Road Controlling Authorities

Every road controlling authority shall implement a control programme aimed at controlling and progressively eradicating Broom, Gorse and Wild Ginger from the Regions road reserves and controlling and eradicating Pampas and Privet from areas of light or sparsely infested road reserves under their jurisdiction in accordance with a five year management plan which shall be negotiated with and agreed to by the Northland Regional Council.

6.4.2.9 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 or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.

(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 or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.

(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 or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.

(iv) No person shall plant, transplant or re-distribute any pest plant subject of a Pest Management Strategy or included in the National Accord List of Plants Banned from Sale & Distribution.