

## 5.12. PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR PRIVET



### Description of the Pest

Privet is an evergreen shrub or tree with two species being found in Northland - tree privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Tree privet grows 5-10 metres high and has long glossy leaves. It has creamy flowers in summer and small black berries. Chinese privet is a smaller shrub or tree which grows up to 5 metres in height. It has shorter, less glossy, leaves. The plant produces White flowers in springtime. Both species have distinctive and powerful flower perfumes.

### Distribution of the Pest

Both plants are found throughout Northland. They are generally present in or near sites of human habitation, where they have been planted as hedges or specimen trees. The plants inhabit bush, gardens, roadsides, and ungrazed wasteland areas.

### Problems Caused

Privet causes several problems. Its scent contributes to respiratory disorders and has associated human health impacts. The plant also prevents native plant regeneration and can form pure associations in bush. It can also restrict visibility along roadsides and form barriers to recreational activities, e.g. tramping. The plant is also toxic to livestock. When growing on riverbanks, privet catches flood debris and impedes flood flows.

### Parties Affected

Privet affects people with asthma or respiratory problems. Organisations responsible for managing conservation areas, reserves and roadsides are also affected.

### Impact Evaluation

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

### Regional Effects

Privet has been recognised as a significant pest plant in the Region as its effects on human health and native ecosystems become more apparent.

### Need to Intervene

Privet is the subject of many complaints concerning human health problems and requests for advice and information. These occur most significantly during the time that the plant flowers. It is also a plant which can seriously affect forests and other

native ecosystems. A Regional Strategy involving advice, publicity and where necessary the total control of privet where individual trees or hedges cause or exacerbate human health problems is required.

#### **Goal (Long Term)**

- To minimise the human health and environmental effects of privet.

#### **Objectives (Five Year)**

- To maintain, and where appropriate, increase public awareness of the plant as a pest
- To require total control or maintenance of privet trees and or hedges which are exacerbating health problems.
- To achieve clearance of sparse or light infestations of privet from the Regions roadsides and private land.
- To encourage clearance of the plant by community action programmes.

#### **Tactics and Technical Methods to be Used**

Education	Advice to occupiers and other interested parties. Community meetings and field days. Media releases and publicity brochures.
Regulation	Rule 6.4.2.2 Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger Inside Roadside Property Boundaries 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 Rule 6.4.2.11 Total Clearance of Wild Ginger, Privet and Moth Plant Within Areas Under Community Schemes Rule 6.4.2.13 Total Control of Privet in Urban Areas  Failure to comply with these rules creates an offence under section 154 (r) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
Services	District Council and Transit N.Z. roadside control programmes. Regional Council assistance for local community control programmes.

#### **Tactics and Technical Methods Rejected Services**

Service	Biological control (no known agents). Regional Council eradication service (plant too widespread).
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#### **Effects of the Strategy**

Beneficial	Improved human health. Enhanced ecological and recreational values of forests.
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Detrimental	Possible spray damage to non-target species.
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#### **Cost of Strategy**

The Strategy is expected to cost the Regional Council approximately \$12,500 each year.

#### **Funding**

The Council's costs of implementing the Strategy are funded from a Land Management Rate.

## **Management Agency**

The Northland Regional Council is responsible for management of the Strategy.

## **Relationship of Strategy to Other Pest Management Strategies**

The Auckland Regional Council lists Privet as Regional Surveillance plant only.

## **Monitoring and Reporting**

The effectiveness of the education measures will be gauged by survey. Areas to be targeted as part of community control programmes will be outlined in the operational programme. Progress towards Strategy objectives will each year be recorded in the Regional Council's Annual Plan or LTCCP as appropriate.

## **Term of Strategy**

**5 years**

## **Rules**

### 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.

### 6.4.2.6 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.

6.4.2.11 Total Clearance of Wild Ginger, Privet and Moth Plant Within Areas Under Community Schemes

Where a community group is undertaking control of wild ginger and/or privet according to a community or area-wide 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

6.4.2.13 Total Control of Privet in Urban Areas

Privet trees and hedges are permitted under this Pest Management Strategy providing that:

- (i) Hedges are maintained in a trim state;
- (ii) Privet trees or hedges do not exacerbate human health problems. Where Privet is claimed to exacerbate human health problems a medical certificate/letter is required of proof of this claim.
- (iii) Privet trees or hedges do not exacerbate the spread of seed and re-invasion of an already cleared area