

## 5.17. PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WILD GINGER



### Description of the Pest

Wild ginger is a perennial herb with cream or yellow flowers. It can grow 2-3 metres high. Two species are present in Northland (*Hedychium gardnerianum* and *Hedychium flavescens*).

The plants originated in the jungle margins of India and Madagascar and were introduced into New Zealand over a century ago. They have been cultivated on a wide scale by home gardeners as popular ornamental plants.

### Distribution of the Pest

Wild ginger is found in many parts of the Region, particularly in and adjacent to coastal settlements. Major infestations are found in the Whangaroa, Kohukohu, Rawene, Waimamaku, Waipoua, Helena Bay, McLeods Bay and Whangarei areas.

### Problems Caused

Wild ginger is a forest invader with its dense rhizomes and foliage forming an impenetrable mass which smothers small plants and prevents forest regeneration. It can also contribute to erosion on steep land.

### Parties Affected

The main parties affected are landowners, especially those with native forest areas such as the Department of Conservation, District Councils and Maori Trusts. People who use and enjoy forests are also affected.

### Impact Evaluation

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

### Regional Effects

Wild ginger is having an adverse effect on the Regions native forests. It is taking over habitats previously occupied by indigenous species and making public access and recreational use of forests more difficult.

### Need to Intervene

Wild ginger needs to be controlled, particularly its spread into forest areas currently unaffected. The ongoing loss of native forest and associated habitats will have significant ecological, cultural, recreational and economic consequences. Public awareness of the plant's threat to native forests needs to be raised and control measures promoted. Physical removal and safe disposal along with herbicide

spraying, developed and managed in conjunction with the Department of Conservation, is required.

**Goal (Long Term)**

- To minimise the impact of Wild Ginger on the Regions biodiversity.

**Objectives (Five Year)**

- To have Wild Ginger cleared from 2/3 of the Regions roadsides.

**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 (biological control options). Produce a database showing distribution.								
Regulation	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Rule 6.4.2.2</td> <td>Clearance of Broom, Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger Inside Roadside Property Boundaries</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Rule 6.4.2.6</td> <td>Clearance Along Roadsides of Gorse, Pampas Grass, Privet and Wild Ginger by Roading Authorities</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Rule 6.4.2.9</td> <td>Prohibition on Distribution and Sale of Pest Plants</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Rule 6.4.2.11</td> <td>Total Clearance of Wild Ginger, Privet and Moth Plant Within Areas Under Community Schemes</td> </tr> </table> <p>Failure to comply with these rules creates an offence under section 154 (r) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.</p>	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
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Services	Organisation of community eradication programmes.								

**Tactics and Technical Methods Rejected**

Economic	Subsidies on herbicides (not effective).
Regulation	Rules on total clearance (not effective).
Services	Regional Council eradication service (plant too widespread).

**Effects of the Strategy**

Beneficial	Protection of native forest ecosystems. Enhanced public access to native forests and enhancement of recreational/scenic values.
Detrimental	Possible damage to non-target species from herbicides. Possible soil erosion from physical removal.

**Cost of Strategy**

The Regional Council' Strategy is estimated to cost around \$9,000 each year. The Department of Conservation, landholders and roading authorities will incur costs in controlling wild ginger on their land.

**Funding**

The Regional Council's costs of implementing this Strategy is to be funded from a Land Management Rate. The Department of Conservation will receive its funding from central government.

### 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 prepared a similar wild ginger Strategy. The clearance of ginger from forests can leave room for other pest plants to invade. For this reason, landowners will be encouraged to rehabilitate cleared land. Similarly, because pest animals such as possums and goats open up bush for weed invasion, emphasis on the weed-prevention benefits of pest control will be included in pest animal Strategies.

### Monitoring and Reporting

Progress on meeting the Strategy objectives and effectiveness of the tactics and technical methods used will be reported in the Regional Council's Annual Plan or LTCCP as appropriate. Surveys will be used to gauge the success of publicity campaigns.

### 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 or Moth Plant Within Areas Under Community Schemes

Where a community group is undertaking control of wild ginger, moth plant 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.