

# Moth Plant Competition 2026: Mandatory Safety Precautions and Transport and Disposal Requirements

Please read this document carefully. By registering for the Moth Plant Competition 2026 (“Competition”), you acknowledge that you have read, understand and will comply with the Mandatory Safety Precautions (on page 1) and Transport and Disposal Requirements (on page 2).

## 1. Mandatory Safety Precautions

### Handling moth plant

**WARNING:** The sticky, milky white sap of moth plant can be highly irritating and potentially damaging to skin and eyes. Care must be taken to ensure the sap does not come in contact with skin or eyes. Contact with eyes can cause stinging, swelling and can impair vision. Contact with skin can cause severe dermatitis in some people. It is poisonous when ingested.

To keep safe, you must follow these safety precautions:

- **Wear the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** when handling any part of the moth plant (vines, leaves, pods):
  - Sturdy, waterproof gloves.
  - Long-sleeved top and pants - choose old clothing (to protect your skin and prevent the sap from staining your good clothes).
  - Safety glasses, sunglasses or goggles.
- **Do not touch your face, eyes, or mouth** while handling moth plant, or while wearing gloves or clothing that have come into contact with it.
- **Wash your hands and arms with soap and water** immediately after you finish handling the plant and any tools or clothing used while working with it.

If sap gets into your eyes, immediately and thoroughly flush your eyes with water, saline or an eyewash solution for several minutes and seek medical attention immediately. If sap gets onto your skin, wash as soon as possible with soapy water. If irritation occurs seek medical advice.

### Keeping yourself safe

Always work with at least one other person for safety and tell someone where you are going and when you will be back. **Those under the age of 18 must be supervised by a responsible adult who takes full responsibility for their health and safety at all times.**

**Only remove pods and seedlings/vines that can be easily and safely reached:**

- Do not remove moth plant in locations where it is unsafe to do so, such as next to busy roads or near train tracks.
- Do not climb trees or unstable structures and avoid over-reaching in unsafe situations.

- Pay attention to your surroundings, including traffic, uneven ground, hidden hazards, dogs, bees and wasps, and other people.
- If pods are located on private property, permission from the landowner must be sought and granted. Permission must be requested by a parent/guardian or team member over the age of 18.

If you would like to use herbicide gel to treat cut vines, search 'Moth plant' in our Pest Control Hub for approved guidance: [www.nrc.govt.nz/pestcontrolhub](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/pestcontrolhub)

## 2. Transport & Disposal Requirements

Correct transport and disposal of moth plant pods and vines is essential to prevent the further spread of this invasive weed. Incorrect transport or disposal will create more moth plant infestations.

**IMPORTANT: Only the disposal method below is approved for the Competition and must be followed once you have photographed the moth plant pods and seedlings/vines. Failure to follow this method may result in your disqualification from the Competition.**

### Transport and disposal of pods and roots:

- Place moth plant pods and seedlings/vines with roots inside a rubbish bag as you collect them and securely close it before transporting. **Bags that contain pods must be double bagged before disposal.**
  - NRC will provide you/your team with one pre-paid council rubbish bag for kerbside disposal, or a clear plastic bag for disposal at a transfer station.
  - NRC will also provide biosecurity stickers that you must place on any bag before disposal. If you run out of stickers, please print out the document provided in the registration confirmation email and tape it to the bag(s).
  - Your bag and biosecurity stickers can be collected from NRC's Whangārei, Dargaville, Waipapa and Kaitaia offices. For office locations, visit [www.nrc.govt.nz/contactus](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/contactus)
  - Any additional resources required for disposal (e.g., additional rubbish bags, council rubbish stickers) is the responsibility of participants.
- Dispose of the rubbish bags via kerbside collection (your regular household rubbish collection) or take directly to a transfer station to be disposed of in landfill, not green waste. **If you dispose of moth plant material at a transfer station using the clear bag provided by NRC, please let the station attendant know you are participating in the competition and advise them of your team name so they can process the moth plant material correctly.**
- Do not put moth plant pods (open or closed) or root material into your home compost bin.
- Do not put moth plant pods into your council green waste or kerbside organics bin.
- Do not dump moth plant material in reserves, parks, roadsides, or neighbours' properties. This is illegal and spreads the weed.

### Disposal of cut vines:

- Cut vines that have no pods attached can be left hanging in trees to die off. Ensure the roots are removed or treated and dispose of them via the approved method above.
  - Do not put untreated vine material into your council green waste or kerbside organics bin.