

# WHAT WEED IS THIS?

Learn about:

- > Moth Plant
- > Pampas Grass
- > Climbing Asparagus
- > Wild Ginger
- > Woolly Nightshade
- > Cotoneaster
- > & more.



For advice or any help please email us on  
[weedaction@piroaconservation.org.nz](mailto:weedaction@piroaconservation.org.nz)

# MOTHPLANT

## > *Araujia hortorum*

- Vine with white/pink scented, bell-shaped flowers.
- Very visible in Summer with its distinctive flowers and pods.
- Can grow in any frost-free habitat.
- Often discovered amongst hedges and native bush, replacing native vegetation and smothering other plants.



## How to get rid of it?

- Dig out small plants by hand, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger plants, cut down and stump-paint with herbicide containing Metsulfuron-methyl. Gel works best or spray.\*
- Place any pods in household rubbish or a barrel of water to rot.
- Wear gloves as the plant has a nasty sap that can cause skin irritation.

\*When using herbicide please read the label thoroughly and ensure all instructions and safety requirements are followed



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# PAMPAS GRASS



## How to get rid of it?

### > *Cortaderia selloana*

- Tall grass with large feathery flower plumes, usually white or pink.
- Resembles our native toetoe but flowers later, from January to March, with spent flowers lingering until May.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, particularly disturbed and open areas.



- Dig or grub out seedlings or small plants, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger clumps and very dense site, cut down and treat stumps with herbicide containing glyphosate or haloxyfop-P-methyl.\*
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- Wear gloves and protective clothing as leaves can cause cuts and skin irritation.

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# CLIMBING ASPARAGUS



How to get rid of it?



## *Asparagus scandens*

- Fern-like vine with small white flowers and red berries.
- Very visible in winter when it forms dense mats in native bush and gardens.
- Can grow in a wide range of habitats, including shaded areas.
- Often found smothering native vegetation, replacing native plants with its aggressive growth.

- Cut into crowns below soil with sharp knife and remove all greenery, treat regrowth the same way.
- For larger infestations, cut vines and treat stumps with herbicide containing glyphosate.\*

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# WILD GINGER



How to get rid of it?

## > *Hedychium gardnerianum*

- Tall perennial with large, glossy leaves and fragrant yellow or white flowers.
- Resembles other ginger plants but is invasive and highly aggressive.
- Very visible in late summer to autumn when flowers are prominent.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, especially shaded and moist areas.
- Often found invading native bush and forest margins, displacing native plants and forming dense mats that smother other vegetation.



- Dig out small plants, ensuring to remove all rhizomes.
- For larger clumps, cut down above the pink collar at the base, and paint stump with herbicide containing picloram gel, glyphosate, metsulfuron-methyl, or metsulfuron gel.\*
- Dispose of rhizomes and flowers/seeds in household rubbish or a barrel of water to rot down.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing as sap can cause skin irritation.

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# WOOLLY NIGHTSHADE



*Solanum mauritianum*

- Shrub or small tree with large, velvety leaves and purple star-shaped flowers.
- Also known as Tobacco Weed.
- Very visible year-round, especially when in bloom and fruiting.
- Often found invading native bush, replacing native vegetation and forming dense thickets.



## How to get rid of it?

- Pull out small plants by hand, ensuring to remove all roots. Dispose of flowers and berries in household rubbish to prevent spreading.
- For larger plants, cut down and paint stumps with herbicide containing glyphosate\* or
- For thick trunks, drill downward sloping hole every 200mm around the base of the trunk and fill with undiluted glyphosate mixture with syringe or squeeze bottle.
- Take extra care and wear gloves and protective clothing as plant parts can cause skin irritation and respiratory issue

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# COTONEASTER



## How to get rid of it?

### > *Cotoneaster franchetii*

- Shrub with small, glossy leaves and clusters of white or pink flowers followed by red berries.
- Often used as ornamental plants in gardens, they have become invasive in many regions.
- Very visible year-round, especially when in fruit.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, including gardens, roadsides, and forest margins.



- Aim to control whole areas to minimise reseeding by birds.
- Dig out small plants, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger shrubs, cut down and paint stumps with herbicide containing metsulfuron-methyl or picloram gel.\*
- Dispose of berries in household rubbish to prevent spreading.
- Monitor for and remove any regrowth.

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# ARUM LILY

## > *Zantedeschia aethiopic*

- Perennial plant with large, glossy, arrow-shaped leaves and white, hooded flowers.
- Very visible when in bloom, typically in spring and summer.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, including gardens, wetlands, and forest margins.
- Often found invading native bush, forming dense patches that outcompete native vegetation.



## How to get rid of it?

- Dig out small plants, ensuring to remove all rhizomes.
- For larger clumps, cut down and paint stumps with herbicide containing metsulfuron-methyl or spray same.\*
- Dispose of flowers and berries in household rubbish to prevent spreading.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing as all parts of the plant are toxic if ingested and can cause skin irritation.

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# PHOENIX PALM



## How to get rid of it?

### > *Phoenix canariensis*

- Also known as Date Palm, is a tall palm tree with feathery, arching fronds and orange fruit clusters.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, including gardens, parks, and coastal areas.
- Often found invading native bush, displacing native vegetation and altering ecosystems.



- Dig out small plants, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger trees, cut down and paint stumps using glyphosate.
- Dispose of fruit clusters and trunk at a refuse transfer station.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing as fronds can cause skin irritation and cuts.

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# ELAEAGNUS



How to get rid of it?

## > *Elaeagnus x reflexa*

- Shrub with silver-grey leaves and small, fragrant flowers followed by red or orange berries.
- Very visible year-round, especially when in fruit.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, including gardens, roadsides, and forest margins.
- Often found invading native bush, forming dense thickets that smother native vegetation.



- Dig out small plants, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger shrubs, stump swab at ground level using glyphosate or picloram gel.
- Dispose of berries in household rubbish to prevent spreading.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing as leaves can cause skin irritation.



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# MORNING GLORY



How to get rid of it?



*Ipomoea indica*

- Climbing vine with heart-shaped leaves and funnel-shaped flowers in various colors.
- Very visible when in bloom, typically during spring and summer.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, including gardens, roadsides, and forest margins.



- Pull out small plants by hand, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger vines, cut down and paint stumps with glyphosate or metsulfuron-methyl.
- Dispose of flowers and seeds in household rubbish to prevent spreading.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing as sap can cause skin irritation.



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# AGAPANTHUS



How to get rid of it?

## ➤ *Agapanthus praecox*

- Perennial plant known for its strap-like leaves and clusters of blue or white funnel-shaped flowers.
- Very visible when in bloom, typically in summer.
- Can grow in a variety of habitats, including gardens, roadsides, and coastal areas.
- Often found invading native bush, forming dense clumps that outcompete native vegetation.



- Dig out small plants, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger clumps, cut down and paint stumps with a herbicide gel containing metsulfuron-methyl.
- Dispose of flowers and seeds in household rubbish to prevent spreading.
- Monitor and repeat treatment as needed.

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# ALLIGATOR WEED



How to get rid of it?



*Alternanthera philoxeroides*

- Aquatic plant known for its fleshy, lance-shaped leaves and small white or pale purple flowers.
- Forms dense mats that outcompete native aquatic plants, reducing biodiversity and altering ecosystems.
- Often introduced through contaminated soil or water, it can quickly colonize aquatic habitats, including ponds, lakes, and rivers.



- Report all sites to Northland Regional Council.
- Pull out small plants by hand, ensuring to remove all roots.
- For larger infestations, cut down and treat with herbicide containing glyphosate.
- Dispose of plants in household rubbish or burn to prevent spreading.
- Wear gloves to avoid skin irritation.

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