

Pest management in Taranaki



Factsheet: 3

The Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki

The *Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki* sets out the regulatory framework for the Taranaki Regional Council's pest management over the next 10 years. It builds on existing work, and addresses both plant and animal pests, in line with the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Meaning of 'pests'

The Biosecurity Act's definition of a pest is "...an organism specified as a pest in a pest management plan". The following table, top-right, shows the 17 plant and animal pests targeted in the Plan for eradication or sustained control in Taranaki. 'Other harmful organisms' not classified as pests, have been separately addressed in the *Taranaki Regional Council Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2038*.

Pest	Programme
Climbing spindleberry	Eradication
Giant reed	Eradication
Madeira (mignonette) vine	Eradication
Moth plant	Eradication
Senegal tea	Eradication
Brush-tail possums	Sustained control
Giant buttercup	Sustained control
Giant gunnera	Sustained control
Gorse	Sustained control
Nodding, plumeless and variegated thistles	Sustained control
Old man's beard	Sustained control
Wild broom	Sustained control
Wild ginger (yellow and kahili)	Sustained control
Yellow ragwort	Sustained control



A brush-tail possum

Eradication programmes

The Council will fund and carry out eradication of the following five pest species in Taranaki, in recognition of the regional benefits. Under the Biosecurity Act, it may enter properties for surveillance, monitoring and control purposes.

- Climbing spindleberry.
- Giant reed.
- Madeira (mignonette) vine.
- Moth plant
- Senegal tea.



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Sustained control programme

The sustained control programme will target the following 12 agricultural and environmental pests:

Pest	Rules	
	Good Neighbour	General
Brushtail possums	Yes	Yes
Giant buttercup	Yes	
Giant gunnera	Yes	Yes
Gorse	Yes	
Kahili ginger	Yes	Yes
Nodding thistle	Yes	
Old man's beard	Yes	Yes
Plumeless thistle	Yes	
Variegated thistle	Yes	
Wild broom	Yes	
Yellow ginger	Yes	Yes
Yellow ragwort	Yes	Yes

The species listed in the table on the left are relatively widespread and are having significant impacts on Taranaki.

Under the Plan, land occupiers are responsible for ensuring that those species do not cause problems for their neighbours. The Council is responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the two kinds of rules in the Plan's sustained control programme:

- Good Neighbour Rules apply to both private and Crown land occupiers, and address 'spill-over' effects of the pest on adjacent properties that are applying pest control (see *Factsheet 4*).
- General or other rules for private land occupiers that, by law, cannot be applied to the Crown. The rules apply an additional level of control, deemed appropriate by the community, to maximise the effectiveness of individual control.

Apart from brushtail possums, the sustained control pests are all plants or weeds. Since the early 1990s, the Council has worked with Taranaki land owners to facilitate possum control across intensively-farmed land through the Self-Help Possum Control Programme.

This has been so successful that the Council recently extended its possum control activities into urban New Plymouth, in collaboration with the New Plymouth District Council.

Pest	A summary of the Plan's rules for land occupiers in Taranaki	
	Good neighbour	General
Brushtail possums	A land occupier must maintain possum numbers to below a 10% residual trap catch within 500 metres of their boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent production and indigenous biodiversity values; AND - where an adjacent land occupier is in the Self-Help Possum Control Programme and is maintaining possums present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch; AND - excepting any property or part of a property east of the Self-Help Possum Control Programme boundary or in an urban area. 	A land occupier in the Self-Help Possum Control Programme must maintain possum numbers present on their land to below a 10% residual trap catch.
Giant buttercup	A land occupier must destroy all giant buttercup present on their land within five (5) metres of their property boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent dairy and beef production values; AND - where an adjacent land occupier is managing giant buttercup within five (5) metres of their property boundary, 	
Giant gunnera	A Crown land occupier must destroy all giant gunnera present on their land within 500 metres of their property boundary:	A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all giant



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Pest	A summary of the Plan's rules for land occupiers in Taranaki	
	Good neighbour	General
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent indigenous biodiversity values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing giant gunnera within 500 metres of their property boundary. 	gunnera present on their land to protect indigenous biodiversity values.
Gorse	<p>A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all gorse present on their land within 10 metres of their property boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent pastoral or forestry production values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing gorse within 10 metres of their property boundary; AND - excepting any property or part of a property in an urban area. 	
Kahili ginger	<p>A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all wild ginger (kahili) present on their land within 1000 metres of their property boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect indigenous biodiversity values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing wild ginger (kahili) within 1000 metres of their property boundary. 	A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all yellow ginger and kahili ginger present on their land.
Nodding and plumeless thistle	<p>A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all nodding and plumeless thistles present on their land within 100 metres of their property boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent dairying and sheep and beef production values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing nodding and plumeless thistles within 100 metres of their property boundary. 	
Old man's beard	<p>A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all old man's beard present on their land within 10 metres of their property boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent indigenous biodiversity values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing old man's beard present within 10 metres of their property boundary. 	<p>A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all old man's beard on their property, EXCEPT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any parts of a property that lie within 50 metres from the middle of the Waingongoro River south of Opunake Road and for which the Council has not completed its initial control programme; AND - any parts of a property that lie within 50 metres from the middle of the Patea River east of State Highway 3.
Variegated thistle	<p>A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all variegated thistles present on their land within five (5) metres of their property boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent dairying and sheep and beef production values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing variegated thistles within five (5) metres of their property boundary 	

Pest	A summary of the Plan's rules for land occupiers in Taranaki	
	Good neighbour	General
Wild broom	A land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all wild broom present on their land within 10 metres of their property boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent dairying, sheep and beef or production forestry values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing wild broom within 10 metres of their property boundary. 	
Yellow ginger	A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all wild ginger (yellow) present on their land within five (5) metres of their property boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect indigenous biodiversity values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing wild ginger (yellow) within five (5) metres of their property boundary. 	A private land occupier within the Taranaki region must destroy all yellow ginger and kahili ginger present on their land.
Yellow ragwort	A Crown land occupier within the Taranaki region, or land occupier east of the Pest Management Line as identified in Appendix A of the Plan, must destroy all yellow ragwort present on their land within 20 metres of their property boundary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to protect adjacent dairying or beef production values; AND - where the adjacent land occupier is managing yellow ragwort within 20 metres of their property boundary. 	A private land occupier west of the Pest Management Line as identified in Appendix A of the Plan must destroy all yellow ragwort on their land, EXCEPT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any Crown land in which case 6.13.4.2 [the Good Neighbour Rule] applies.

Species considered but not included

Other harmful species considered for inclusion in the Plan but for which rules were not considered appropriate include hornwort, tutsan/sweet amber, and yellow bristle grass.

- The eradication of **hornwort** in Lake Rotorangi was assessed as unfeasible given its ability to propagate from small fragments. As with other aquatic weeds and pest fish, control options are extremely limited.
- **Tutsan** is largely restricted to localised infestations in the eastern hill country and does not present sufficient threat to agricultural production or biodiversity values to warrant rules.
- Most **yellow bristle grass** infestations are being found on road and rail verges. Control is costly and difficult, as many normal methods are ineffective and can worsen the problem. A regulatory regime would also be hard to enforce. The Council is instead working with the New Zealand Transport Authority, district councils and Federated Farmers to promote best practice for farmers, roading authorities and contractors, and to review actions with a particular focus on the distribution of yellow bristle grass in the Eastern Hill Country.