

Worst Weeds *in the* Rodney Local Board Area



1. Climbing Asparagus

Asparagus scandens

- Vine that scrambles or climbs. Has soft fern-like foliage and small white flowers in spring, followed by orange berries. Will grow in sun or shade, disturbed sites or deep forest.
- Found everywhere in the Waitākeres where it climbs over and smothers native plants especially seedlings.
- Seeds are spread by birds.



2. Wild Ginger or Kahili Ginger

Hedychium gardnerianum

- Herb which grows up to two metres high in sun or shade. Fragrant yellow flowers appear from February to April. Each yellow flower-head produces 100 seeds.
- Grows fast, displacing native forest. Roots build up to an impenetrable mat on forest floor.
- Seed is dispersed by birds.



3. Woolly Nightshade

Solanum mauritianum

- Shrub or small tree with grey-green leaves covered with dense felt-like hairs. Has a strong odour. Clusters of purple flowers. Berries ripen to yellow. Shade tolerant.
- Likes to grow in vacant spaces along road edges or in the bush. Can form dense colonies. Dust from leaves can cause health problems.
- Seeds spread by birds.



4. Moth Plant

Araujia hortorum

- Vine with pointed leaves and clusters of creamy coloured flowers. Forms large seed pods.
- Plants are long-lived and can smother trees, weighing them down.
- When pods split, up to 1000 thistle-like seeds are released and parachute on the wind for long distances. Seedlings are shade tolerant and grow rapidly.



5. Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox

- Type of lily with strappy bright green leaves and showy clusters of blue or white flowers. Prefers sun or semi-shade and colonises roadsides, stream banks and cliffs.
- Grows into dense clumps, excluding other vegetation.
- Spread by natural expansion and deliberate planting. Prolific seeds wash or fall into small niches and grow.



6. Wandering Jew, Wandering Willie

Tradescantia fluminensis

- Shade-tolerant ground cover which roots along stems and has small star-shaped flowers. Quickly creeps over large areas forming dense mats.
- Smothers small plants and prevents regeneration of bush.
- Pieces of stem that break off root easily. Plant is spread by people, water and machinery. May cause dermatitis in dogs.



7. Arundo Grass, Giant Reed

Arundo donax

- Grass that forms bamboo-like clumps, growing to five metres in height. Forms a dense root mat of short rhizomes. Bears feathery, plume-like flower-heads.
- Displaces surrounding vegetation and impedes drainage. Provides habitat for pests such as rats and possums.
- Spread by people or waterways.



8. Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

- Vine that grows vigorously, up to 15 metres in one year. Fragrant cream and yellow flowers are followed by black berries. Tolerates low light, drought and frost. Found on roadsides, forest and wetland margins, coastal areas.
- Climbs over and smothers all vegetation beneath it.
- Rarely seeds but is dispersed by fragments growing.



9. Blue Morning Glory

Ipomoea indica

- Vine with distinctive heart-shaped leaves with showy blue-purple convolvulus-type flowers. Grows rapidly in sun or light shade and in wet or dry soil. Invades forest margins, roadsides.
- Smothers native vegetation either as a ground cover or as a climber.
- Spread by stem fragments rooting.



10. Pampas Grass (common and purple)

Cortaderia selloana, C. jubata

- Grass forming large clumps up to four metres in height. Large amounts of seed are produced in summer on plume-like stalks, coloured pink, purple or white.
- Pampas out-competes other vegetation, is a fire risk and shelters rabbits, rats and possums.
- Seeds dispersed by wind, water, soil, clothes etc.



11. Jasmine

Jasminum polyanthum

- Vine which climbs to mid-canopy height, twines around host. Scented white tubular flowers in spring. Tolerates shade, frost and moisture.
- Forms an impenetrable ground cover, smothers vegetation to mid-canopy.
- Spread mainly by garden escapes or dumped garden refuse, and grows rapidly from stem fragments.



12. Chinese Privet and Tree Privet

Ligustrum sinense and Ligustrum lucidum

- Chinese privet is a shrub that grows to five metres and displaces native shrubs on forest margins.
- Tree privet grows to 14 metres and will dominate areas of forest. Both plants tolerate a wide range of conditions.
- Seed is dispersed by birds. Leaves and fruit of both are poisonous. The perfume contributes to asthma.



13. Plectranthus

Plectranthus ciliatus

- Ground cover with leaves that are purple underneath. Bears white flowers speckled with purple. Prefers semi-shady to shady sites with well-drained soil.
- Forms thick mats which smother native seedlings. Can dominate roadsides.
- Spread by fragments and human transfers.



14. Taiwan Cherry

Prunus campanulata

- Tree which is deciduous and fast growing up to eight metres. Pink/red tubular-shaped flowers are produced in early spring.
- Plants displace slower growing natives on forest edges and clearings.
- Seeds spread by birds.



15. Gorse

Ulex europaeus

- Spiny shrub with woody stems when mature. Bright yellow pea-like flowers in July to October followed by black seed pods. Grows to 3.5 metres high and forms dense infestations.
- Out-competes native plants or pasture. Harbours pests and is a fire hazard.
- Spread by seed pod ejection, by birds or by soil movement. Seeds can live up to 60 years in soil.



16. Cape Ivy

Senecio angulatus

- Scrambling shrub with bright green fleshy ivy-shaped leaves and yellow daisy-like flowers. Grows mainly in dry coastal areas, forest margins and dunes.
- Forms dense tangled mats that smother existing vegetation and prevent regeneration.
- Seeds are dispersed by wind.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PEST PLANTS GO TO

- Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/environmentwaste/biosecurity
- Forest & Bird: www.forestandbird.org.nz
- Biosecurity: for more information on biosecurity please call Auckland Council on 09 301 0101

- Pest plants in Auckland www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/environmentwaste/biosecurity
- Weedbusters: www.weedbusters.org.nz
- New Zealand Plant Protection Society: www.nzpps.org
- National Pest Plant Accord: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa



SYMBOLS KEY



Dig or hand pull



Paint stump



Spray

See over for control methods tailored to each plant

and How to control them

1. Control of Climbing Asparagus

- Hand pull small plants. Make sure you remove tuberous roots. Dispose of plants in weed bin.
- Spray lightly to avoid run-off with 200ml glyphosate/10L water.



Messages for weed warriors

- Pest plants destroy native forest and habitat
- Most pest plants were introduced as garden plants
- Spray is best used when the plant is actively growing
- It is best to treat pest plants before they flower
- If stump painting, do so immediately after the cut
- Do not be disheartened, every little bit of weeding helps!

2. Control of Wild Ginger

- Hand pull young seedlings. Dispose of plants in weed bin.
- Cut above the pink collar and paint stump with 1g metsulfuron/1L water. Can compost cut stems if no seeds or flowers are attached.
- Spray dense patches, avoiding surrounding plants, with 5g metsulfuron+10ml penetrant/10L water.



3. Control of Woolly Nightshade

- Pull up and compost small plants. Dispose of flowers and seeds in weed bin.
- Cut and paint stump with picloram gel.
- Paint a 70cm high collar around stem with picloram gel to kill tree while still standing.
- Spray with 60ml triclopyr + 10ml penetrant/10L water.



4. Control of Moth Plant

- Collect seed pods, seal in a bag and dispose of in the rubbish.
- Dig or pull out seedlings. Avoid skin contact.
- Cut vines near the ground and paint stump with picloram gel.
- Spray in summer with 120ml tordon BK/10L water.
- Report all sightings of moth plant in the Waitākere Ranges to Auckland Council Biosecurity.



5. Control of Agapanthus

- Isolated plants can be dug out and disposed of in weed bin.
- Spray with 60ml triclopyr + 20ml penetrant/10L water.
- Cut leaves off at base and paint the fresh stump quickly with triclopyr
- 100ml/1L water. Leaves can be composted.
- Begin eradication at the top of a slope and work down. Repeat treatment will usually be needed.



6. Control of Wandering Jew

- Rake or hand clear small areas starting from the outer edge. Take care as each dropped fragment may grow. Dispose of in weed bin.
- Spray 60ml triclopyr+10ml penetrant/10L water for 90% kill rate. Repeat treatment most likely necessary.



7. Control of Arundo Grass

- Cut close to the ground. Dispose of tops in weed bin as they may re-root.
- Spray re-growth before it reaches 60 cm with 150ml haloxyfop + 50ml crop oil/10L water. May require four to six treatments.



8. Control of Japanese Honeysuckle

- Cut and dig out roots. Dispose of in weed bin.
- Cut and paint 5g metsulfuron/1L water, or 200ml tordon BK/1L water, or picloram.
- Large vines can be cut at chest height and sprayed 5g metsulfuron+10ml penetrant/10L water or 60ml tordon BK/10L water.



9. Control of Blue Morning Glory

- Hand pull small infestations and dispose of in weed bin.
- Cut vines at waist high and spray below this with 100ml glyphosate + 20ml penetrant /10L water.
- Cut and paint stems with 200ml glyphosate/1L water.



10. Control of Pampas Grass

- Dig out small plants.
- Cut and dispose of flower heads in weed bin - compost the remainder.
- Spray with 150ml haloxyfop + 50ml crop oil/10L water.
- Distinguish pampas from desirable native toetoe by checking the base of the plant. If the dead leaves curl like wood shavings, the plant is pampas.



11. Control of Jasmine

- Cut vines and dispose of in weed bin.
- Cut and paint vines wherever they root with 5g metsulfuron + 1ml penetrant/1L water.
- Cut back and spray regrowth in summer 5g metsulfuron + 10ml penetrant/10L water.



12. Control of Tree Privet and Chinese Privet

- Pull up seedlings. Small plants can be composted, but all flowers should be disposed of in weed bin.
- Cut and paint the stump with 1g metsulfuron /1L water.
- Spray with 5g metsulfuron + 10ml penetrant/10L water.



13. Control of Plectranthus

- Rake up small areas and take to weed bin or carefully compost, being wary of regrowth.
- Spray with 100ml glyphosate+20ml penetrant/10L water or 2g metsulfuron+10ml penetrant/10L water or 30ml triclopyr+10ml penetrant/10L water.



14. Control of Taiwan Cherry

- Hand pull seedlings.
- Ring-bark and apply 1g metsulfuron/1L or 10ml tordonBK/1L water.
- Spray 5g metsulfuron+10ml penetrant/10L or 60ml tordon BK+10mls penetrant/10L water.



15. Control of Gorse

- Hand pull seedlings, "rose" gloves are useful.
- Avoid letting the plants flower and dispose of in the weed bin.
- Cut and paint stump with 50ml triclopyr/1L water or picloram gel.
- Spray with 60ml triclopyr + 10ml penetrant/10L water.



16. Control of Cape Ivy

- Cut back small areas.
- Cut and paste stump with 1g metsulfuron/1L water.
- Cut about waist height and spray below this point with 2g metsulfuron + 10ml penetrant/10L water.



Dispose of weeds safely

Pest plants can be spread by not disposing of them properly. It is an offence to dump weeds along roadsides or in bush.

Compost your pest plants if you can.

Take your environmental weeds to the nearest transfer station that accepts green waste. In Rodney there are transfer stations at the following places:

- Lawrie Road, Snells Beach
 - Rustybrook Road, Wellsford
- There is also one on Foundry Road, Silverdale.

Contact them first to find out if any of your environmental weeds are not accepted as green waste.

Spray safety

- Handle herbicides carefully and store out of reach of children.
- Keep children, neighbours and neighbours plants a safe distance from the spray.
- Follow the instructions on the packaging carefully.
- Always wear liquid-proof gloves when mixing sprays and keep utensils for the purpose.
- Using a spray hood prevents spray drift.
- Take a course for a Growsafe Certificate: www.growsafe.co.nz
- Ask your retailer for the brand name of sprays, or 'google'.

This poster has been adapted from one developed by the Waitākere Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board.