

Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox



Identification

- A lily-like plant that forms dense clumps
- Leathery, strap-like leaves are up to 70 cm long
- Flower stems, up to 1 m tall, have umbrella-shaped clusters of blue or white flowers from December to February
- Black seeds are produced in paper-like cases



Agapanthus invading a coastal cliff face Photo: S. Timmins (DOC)



Close-up of an agapanthus flower Photo: Weedbusters

Where is it found?

A popular garden plant, agapanthus has also been used in roadside plantings. It spreads easily by seed and from discarded root fragments, and is now found growing wild.

Why is it a problem?

Because it spreads so easily and forms dense clumps, agapanthus can colonise new areas rapidly, displacing other plants.

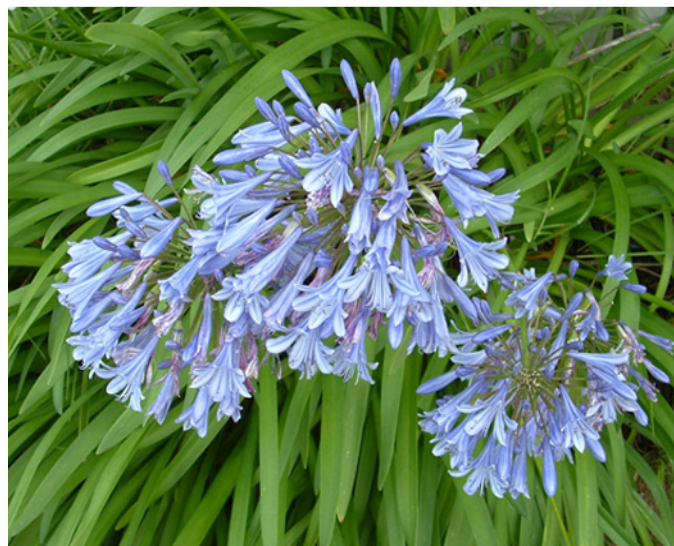
Agapanthus can thrive in a wide range of conditions but is a particular concern in coastal areas where it is able to colonise dune systems and cliff faces.

Control

Removing the flowers before the seed heads form can slow the spread of agapanthus.

If you want to remove the whole plant, then small patches of agapanthus can be dug out but make sure you get all the roots, as these can re-sprout. It is important that seed heads and all parts of the root system are disposed of at a landfill. Follow-up monitoring of the area for possible new re-growth is necessary.

For more information on agapanthus, visit the Weedbusters website (www.weedbusters.co.nz).



Agapanthus flowers Photo: Weedbusters