

# Biosecurity Bites

## Central Issue



### What's the Biosecurity team up to?

The main priority for the Biosecurity team over winter is gorse and broom inspections, the aim being to ensure clear land on some of our most productive land is kept clear. First and follow-up inspections are well underway in Ashburton, Selwyn and Banks Peninsula, where there have been ground and aerial inspections in some of the high country.

Understanding the changes in the new Regional Pest Management Plan will be critical for the team from 1 July and training will take place to make sure we are up to speed on the plan's requirements.

### Farm Biosecurity: What's hiding in that mud?

It's that time of year when mud gets everywhere. It's on your boots, it's on your truck and it's all over the dogs. As well as being a bit of a nuisance, mud can pose a big biosecurity risk to your farm. Weed seeds and diseases can become entrained in mud and carried on to your farm on boots, vehicles, equipment or machinery. To protect your property from new biosecurity incursions, have a 'Keep it Clean' policy and ask anyone visiting or working on your farm to arrive free from mud. For more information, go to [www.ecan.govt.nz/onfarmbiosecurity](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/onfarmbiosecurity).



### Nursery inspections: Stopping pests before they establish

*A big thank you to Canterbury businesses doing the right thing by making sure pest plants are not being sold or displayed.*

Every year the Biosecurity team visits a range of businesses selling plants to make sure pest plants are not being propagated, sold or displayed. Businesses can be propagators, garden centres, cut flower growers, markets or roadside stalls. The team inspects for pest plants on the National Pest Plant Accord (nationally banned) and Restricted Pests List (regionally banned).

The programme aims to prevent pest plants from establishing in the region or if they are already here, from further spread.



As a plant purchaser, you can also help stop the spread of pest plants by being aware of which plants to avoid planting or passing on. A list with images of these pest plants can be found at [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/nppa) and [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz), search 'Restricted Sale Programme'.



Photo above: Green goddess (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) or green arum lily is one of more than 150 banned plants on the National Pest Plant Accord  
Photo courtesy Weedbusters

Below: National Pest Plant Accord booklet



### Boneseed takes a hit on Banks Peninsula

In our autumn edition we advised we had abseiling contractors supporting us to remove boneseed plants on the cliffs of some Banks Peninsula bays. Inroads continue to be made on our fight against this coastal pest plant with hundreds having been controlled in the past few months. With each plant able to produce up to 50,000 seeds per year, control makes a significant difference to the coastline. These before and after shots from Duvauchelle Bay on Banks Peninsula show the difference. Abseiling is required to access such challenging cliff faces. We will look to continue boneseed control in early spring.



Before and after



Boneseed

## Regional Pest Management Plan review

Environment Canterbury's Council adopted the new Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) at its meeting in March this year. Having heard submissions, the hearing commissioners made a number of changes and additions which are now reflected in the plan. There was also the opportunity for submitters to apply to the Environment Court, but no applications were received. The plan will commence on 1 July 2018.

### Key features of the plan

- **Clear and concise content and purpose** - a document that supports biodiversity and production values
- **Early intervention for new pests and those in early stages of establishment** - managing the spread of pests (pathway management), surveillance of high-risk sites and helping the community practise good biosecurity to protect themselves and others from pest incursions
- **Realistic objectives** that can be achieved over time with improved ways of working and a cohesive work plan
- **New pests with new requirements**, including Russell lupins, wilding conifers and feral goats (on Banks Peninsula).
- **Changes to Chilean needle grass and nassella tussock rules**
- **GOod Neighbour rules** including requirements for Crown land
- **More flexibility** through an improved funding rationale
- **Better consistency** across the region and nationally with other councils' plans.

### How we will deliver the plan

- **More efficient and effective use of resources** by Environment Canterbury Biosecurity staff via more targeted inspections, teams working collaboratively, and improved control methods/techniques
- **Liaison and collaboration with the community** via improved partnerships with Pest Management Liaison Committees, new terms of reference, a broader scope of Biosecurity/Biodiversity involvement, representative of the wider community and industry
- **Increasing opportunities for partnerships** via sharing of resources and responsibilities for managing pests with land occupiers, community groups, and industry and joint agency work programmes
- **An effective communications plan** including utilising individuals and community groups to influence behaviour change and clear messaging when Biosecurity staff interact with individuals and the community.

## Controlling pests while caring for our natural environment

Our region's natural environment forms habitats for a diverse range of native plant and animal life. But certain pest plants can have a negative impact on both productive land and the environment, and require control in the Regional Pest Management Plan. It is important to minimise collateral damage to native vegetation when carrying out control. This can make an important difference in saving our rare or threatened species such as those that live in rocky outcrops and other naturally uncommon ecosystems. Different types of pests warrant different control regimes and methods should take account of the impact of pest control on surrounding biodiversity. Always seek advice from your contractor on control options if you have native areas requiring pest control. Help identifying native plants, and advice or funding, may be available to help landowners through organisations such as the QEII National Trust or Environment Canterbury biodiversity officers.



For the new Regional Pest Management Plan, go to [www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-regional-pest-management-plan/pest-management-plan](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/plans-strategies-and-bylaws/canterbury-regional-pest-management-plan/pest-management-plan), go to Decisions, Appendix 2.

## STOP PRESS

### Mycoplasma Bovis



For updates and information, go to [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/mycoplasma-bovis/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/mycoplasma-bovis/)

### Book your nassella contractor

Don't forget to book your nassella contractor. Book early to make sure your nassella programme is completed on time. Please contact the Biosecurity team for a list of nassella contractors.

### Velvetleaf

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has transitioned to a long-term management plan for velvetleaf. Over 300 Canterbury properties are known to have fodder beet potentially infested with velvetleaf seed. More than 90% of these properties now have a farm management plan. Environment Canterbury is helping MPI with triaging 0800 00 83 33 calls from landowners who think they may have found velvetleaf.



More information: [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/velvetleaf/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/velvetleaf/)