



## Control options

**Seedlings and small trees** (up to 20 cm diameter at breast height) can be dealt with using hand and machine tools, or basal bark herbicide application.

**Larger trees** require more effort and the work could be dangerous so health and safety precautions must be factored in. These could be controlled by felling (with a chainsaw), 'drill and fill' (apply herbicide) or by using heavy machinery such as tractors, diggers or bulldozers.

## Who is responsible for control?

Land occupiers are required to control wilding conifers where public money has been spent to control initial infestations to ensure this investment is maintained. Land occupiers are also required to clear wilding conifers from property boundaries where adjoining land has been or is being cleared of wilding conifers.

Visit [www.wildingconifers.org.nz](http://www.wildingconifers.org.nz) for information tailored to land occupiers.

*Cover image credit: Trevor James*



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*Wilding conifers are found throughout Canterbury and New Zealand. It's estimated 20% of the country will be covered in unwanted wilding conifers within 20 years if their spread isn't stopped.*

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### More information

[www.wildingconifers.org.nz](http://www.wildingconifers.org.nz)  
[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)  
[www.ecan.govt.nz/pests](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/pests)  
 (pages 38 to 39 of the plan)



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 0800 324 636 or  
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E18/6756

# Wilding Conifers

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Image Credit: Trevor James

# Wilding Conifers

## PEST STATUS:

*Progressive Containment Programme*

*The objective of this programme is to prevent the spread of wilding conifer across the Canterbury region and progressively remove it from much of the land already invaded.*

## A major threat nationwide

The Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan backs up the work being done through the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme. Central and local government, landowners, industry and communities are working together on this.

## Why are wilding conifers a problem?

They are a major threat to our ecosystems, land and farms. They compete with native plants (and animals) for water and sunlight, and can change the views and vistas unique to our region, as well as impede access to – and enjoyment of – recreational areas. In some areas, dense wilding conifers can potentially impact water availability and aquatic ecosystems, as well as increase the risk posed by wild fires and adversely impact our economy by reducing available grazing land and limiting land use options.

## How do wilding conifers spread?

Seed is mainly spread by wind but can also be moved by stock, vehicles and machinery. Seed from trees growing on hill sides and ridges can be blown long distances.

## DID YOU KNOW...

*Wilding conifers have been spreading at about 5% a year nationwide despite control efforts? That's about 90,000 more hectares a year.*



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR



There are several species of wilding conifers, including: Contorta, Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf mountain pines and larch. Other conifers (e.g. Pinus Radiata) growing outside of planted forests is considered a wilding.

Here are some common identifying features:

- > Produce cones instead of flowers
- > Are not native to New Zealand
- > Begin growing through natural spread – seeds are self-sown by the wind
- > Live outside managed conifer plantations – such as pine and fir forests.



All species look slightly different and a guide is available at [www.wildingconifers.org.nz](http://www.wildingconifers.org.nz) (search for “identifying”).

Image credit: Trevor James