

PLANT PEST CONTROL

LAND PLANT PESTS

Old Man's Beard: *Clematis vitalba*

Why are we worried?

Old Man's Beard is a deciduous vine which will form a tangled mass over host trees and shrubs, eventually blocking out light to the supporting plant, and killing it. Native bush is particularly vulnerable to this vigorously growing introduced plant. It needs good light to become well established.

Old Man's Beard grows very fast, with each stem producing up to 10 metres of new growth each season, and stems trailing along the ground can root at each stem node to produce new plants.

Each vine can produce more than 100,000 seeds a year which are mainly dispersed by wind and water.

What does it look like?

- The leaf has 5 leaflets on each spike, while seedlings have one or three leaflets on each spike.
- The flower has four petals, is creamy white, perfumed and appears in summer and early autumn.

- The seed heads are very noticeable in autumn and winter when they are fluffy and a grey-green-white colour.
- Older stems of the vine are pale brown, and they have stringy bark with strong longitudinal furrows. Young stems have six longitudinal ribs.

It should not be confused with native or exotic ornamental species of clematis. The native clematis is evergreen, usually has three leaflets on each spike and flowers in spring.

Where is it found?

Throughout the whole region, including urban areas of Napier and Hastings. It is (over)



Plant in full bloom; seed-head



found along roadsides and river banks, in gardens, hedges, shelter belts, disturbed bush and at the bush edge.

What is the best way to control the plant?

Cut hanging vines at waist level, ensuring no hanging vines are in contact with the ground. If they are, they can root. Leave all the aerial vines in the host tree to dry out. This also prevents damage to the host tree. Trace all vines back to their roots and then remove all roots by digging or cutting at ground level and treating the stump with an appropriate herbicide mixed with diesel or water. Early summer is the best time to spray regrowth. Dig out any seedlings.

- Stump treatment - paint the freshly cut stump with Grazon, Roundup or Tordon N.F., mixed 50/50 with water
- Knapsack spraying - Escort 5g/15ltr water, Roundup 20mls/15ltr water, Versatil 50mls/10ltr water
- Gun and hose - Escort 35g/100ltr water, Roundup 1-2ltr/100ltr water, Versatil 500mls/100ltr water

WARNING: Old Man's Beard will not be eradicated in one season. Watch for regrowth and seedlings and repeat the procedure the following seasons.

For further information

If you think you may have this plant pest on your property, please contact the Biosecurity Plants Officers at Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice and we will work with you to eradicate it.

Wairoa	0-6-838 8527
Napier	0-6-835 9200
Waipukurau	0-6-858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838