

PLANT PEST CONTROL



LAND PLANT PESTS

Goat's rue: *Galega officinalis*

Why are we worried?

Goat's Rue is unpalatable to stock and it is poisonous. Its vigorous growth chokes out other plants and can spread and establish in many habitats, especially along water courses, rivers, roadsides and railways.

Goat's rue is designated as a TOTAL CONTROL plant pest throughout the Hawke's Bay region.

This means the land occupier must destroy all Goat's rue plants before the production of hard seed.

For details please refer to the Regional Plant Pest and Animal Pest Management Strategy, or consult with your Biosecurity Plant Pest Officer at Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

Where is it found?

In Hawke's Bay Goat's rue is found at Eskdale, Omakere, Ongaonga, Tikokino and Porangahau, predominantly along roadsides and railway lines in these areas.

There is a good chance of removing this plant completely. It is very common in adjacent regions so continued care is needed to ensure it does not re-invade.

Flowers are lilac or pink and grow in bunches or spikes.

What does it look like?

- Goat's Rue is a perennial, colony-forming, woody herb growing to 1m tall.
- It has leaves like vetch and these have 7 to 15 heavily veined leaflets which are narrow and oval and taper towards the tip.
- Flowers are lilac or pink and grow in bunches on spikes of 30 cm or more long.
- This plant is spindly when young but usually grows into dense clumps with tall stems which die back during autumn.



What's the best way to control this plant pest?

If you suspect you have Goat's rue on your property, contact your Biosecurity Plant Pest Officer who will help you to identify the plant and assist with control advice.

Chemical control

Chemical control is the best way to eradicate Goat's rue. Grazon, Escort or similar products are effective. Spray should be applied in spring or just before flowering.

Apply all herbicides according to their label. Consult your Hawke's Bay Regional Council Biosecurity Plant Pest Officer or agrichemical supplier for the current herbicide recommendations.

Physical control

Small plants can be pulled or grubbed out. Ensure the majority of roots are removed along with the plant.

Biological control

At present there are no biological control agents.

For further information

For further information on plant pests ask for other titles in this series or contact Biosecurity Plant Pest Officers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Council for advice.

Wairoa	06 838 8527
Napier	06 835 9200
Waipukurau	06 858 8636
TOLL FREE	0800 108 838
www.hbrc.govt.nz	

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