

## PLANT PEST CONTROL

### LAND PLANT PESTS

#### Pinus contorta

##### **Why are we worried?**

Pinus contorta is a problem because of its ability to seed profusely and spread rapidly. Seed may spread more than 12 kilometres downwind of a tree or stand of trees.

Pinus contorta spreads vigorously from individual plants or plantations into ungrazed native grasslands and scrublands, threatening nature conservation, landscapes, amenity values and recreational access.

Contorta is a problem in exotic forests as it can out-compete the planted species. It will form dense thickets covering large areas making access almost impossible.

Normal stock grazing densities greater than 4 stock units a hectare will control invasion. But where grazing is not possible dense stands of Contorta will form.

##### **What does it look like?**

- Contorta has short paired leaves.
- It has small prickly cones less than 6 cm long.
- Its bark is divided into small irregular plates or scales and its needles are less than 9 cm in length. These are yellow green to dark green.
- Young trees have a narrow, conical crown which becomes more rounded and denser later.
- Generally, seedlings establish in defined stands down-wind of seed trees.

- Mature trees are normally darker green than Pinus radiata.

##### **Where is it found?**

Contorta thrives on sites from coastal sand dunes to the upper limits of tree growth in the mountains. In Hawke's Bay it is a problem along the western areas of the region which have lower fertility soils and a scrub or native pasture cover.

##### **What's the best way to control the plant?**

Cut the trunk at ground level, but preferably just below the ground. It is important to cut below the bottom whorl of branches otherwise the tree will re-sprout. Stumps can be painted with Tordon, Roundup or Grazon to ensure they don't sprout again.



**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.

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TOLL FREE	0800 108 838