



DESCRIPTION:

All giant gunnera species and hybrids – including *Gunnera manicata* and *Gunnera tinctoria* are pest plants. Giant gunnera species share many of the same features and are commonly mistaken for one another. However, any confusion between these is unimportant because they are all troublesome plants that require the same control measures.

Giant gunnera are giant clump-forming herbaceous perennials with stout horizontal rhizomes. The plants have an exotic tropical appearance. The plant has massive umbrella sized leaves with stems up to two metres tall. The flower stems look like tall red broccoli, with each seed head containing in excess of 80,000 seeds. In severe winter conditions the plant dies down but grows new leaves in spring.

OTHER NAMES:

Giant rhubarb, Chilean rhubarb

VALUES AT RISK:

Ecological values, through the suppression of native plants along coastal cliffs, streambanks and wetlands. The large leaves of giant gunnera prevent other plants growing underneath them. Giant gunnera are tolerant of salt spray and a wide range of climatic and soil conditions, therefore they are very invasive. Giant gunnera can impede water flow through

obstruction of drainage channels and wetlands.

STRATEGY RULE:

You must destroy all adult and juvenile forms of giant gunnera and hybrids on your property.

All pest plants are banned from being sold, propagated or distributed.

HOW TO DESTROY GIANT GUNNERA:

For heavy infestations applying herbicide is the most practical method of control. If you don't have time to kill or remove the whole plant, at least remove the seed heads to prevent another season's seeding.

Physical removal: If plants can be dug out, remove the leaves and seed heads first – use a pruning saw. Grub or dig out the rhizomes. Take care not to leave any fragments of the rhizomes, which can regrow. Dispose of the seed heads and rhizomes by deeply burying them, putting into a black bag to rot, wrapping in paper and putting in your rubbish, or by burning.

Use herbicides such as triclopyr (eg *Grazon and Tordon Gold*) although there is no label recommendation (given that this is a relatively new weed) on these herbicides specifying giant gunnera.

Guidance for using triclopyr 600 EC (eg *Grazon, Scrubcutter* or *Victory*)

- Best results for controlling gunnera with triclopyr 600 EC are achieved during the soft active growth stage of gunnera – usually from September to April.
- If using a handgun – mix 200 - 300 ml of triclopyr 600 EC, plus 100 ml of a penetrant (such as *Pulse* or *Boost*), with 100 L of water.
- If using a knapsack mix 60 ml of triclopyr 600 EC plus 10 ml of penetrant (such as *Pulse* or *Boost*), with 10 L of water.
- Spray plant foliage and stems from all sides to give complete and uniform coverage. Between September and April,

For further advice or information about pest plant management contact:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

Pest Plant Management Section
Private Bag 713, Stratford
Ph: 06 765 7127 or 0800 736 222
Fax: 06 765 5097 www.trc.govt.nz

a higher rate of application is recommended.

- These products must be under the care of an approved handler when used in a wide dispersive manner, or applied by a commercial contractor.

Guidance for using picloram granular

(eg *Tordon 2G Prills*)

- Best results using picloram are achieved from September to April when the plant is in full leaf.
- Apply 4 gm – equal to a level teaspoon.
- Apply evenly over growing crowns at the centre of each plant.
- Some granules can be applied around the base of the plant but this should be avoided if the plant is growing close to flowing water.
- This product must be under the care of an approved handler during use.

Guidance for using picloram and triclopyr mix (eg *Tordon Gold*)

- Picloram and triclopyr is effective on gunnera all year round.
- If using a handgun – mix 600 ml of picloram and triclopyr with 100 L of water.
- If using a knapsack mix 120 ml of picloram and triclopyr to 10 L of water plus 10 ml of penetrant (such as *Pulse* or *Boost*).
- Spray plant foliage and stems from all sides to give complete and uniform coverage.
- These products must be under the care of an approved handler when used in a wide dispersive manner or used by a commercial contractor.

Guidance for using picloram and triclopyr mix (eg *Tordon Brush Killer*)

- Picloram and triclopyr mix is effective on gunnera all year round.
- If using a handgun - mix 500 ml with 100 L of water between September and April.
- If using a knapsack mix 60 ml of picloram and triclopyr to 10 L of water plus 10 ml of penetrant (such as *Pulse* or *Boost*).
- Spray plant foliage and stems from all sides to give complete and uniform coverage.
- This product must be under the care of an approved handler during use.

The Taranaki Regional Council accepts no responsibility for any error or omission in these pages, nor for the use or misuse of any herbicide product. Users must observe safe practice guidelines and any directions on the product label. If in doubt, contact the product supplier for advice

For further advice or information about pest plant management contact:

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

Pest Plant Management Section
Private Bag 713, Stratford

Ph: 06 765 7127 or 0800 736 222

Fax: 06 765 5097 www.trc.govt.nz