



## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL:

Old man's beard is widespread in the three catchments shaded blue on the map. In these problem areas, the Council has implemented a biological control programme to reduce infestations over time and make the problem more manageable.

**Note that native Clematis** flowers in spring and is evergreen and so does not lose its leaves in the winter.

## HOW TO DESTROY OLD MAN'S BEARD:

**Hand pull or dig out** young vines or seedlings. Take care to get all the main root system out and to collect all seed heads you can reach and stems, which can regrow if left on the ground.

**Note:** Take care when using mechanical mulchers to trim hedges containing old man's beard, as every piece of old man's beard stem with a couple of nodes can take root and spread.

**Use a herbicide.** Using herbicides to control old man's beard is very effective if the correct timing and rates of application are used. Always follow the manufacturer's directions on the product label and avoid spraying if it will rain before the spray is rain-fast. The rain-fast times for herbicides vary widely by up to five hours so it pays to check, rather than waste spray.

For heavy infestations growing up trees, cut the vines at waist level so no hanging stems are in contact with the ground where they can regrow. Take care not to leave stems touching the ground. Carefully dispose of any seed heads you can reach. Leave the hanging stems to dry out if dragging them down will ruin the supporting tree.

After cutting the stems, immediately apply stump treatment with a herbicide gel or wait for the cut stems to regrow then spray the new leaves with herbicide. For heavy

## DESCRIPTION:

Old man's beard is a woody, perennial climber up to 25 metres high. The stems have length-wise ridges and can grow many metres each year. In summer or early autumn it has small white flowers with four petals. The resulting whitish, fluffy seed heads are very noticeable in autumn and winter. Old man's beard loses its leaves for winter. The leaf spike has five leaflets except on seedlings which have one to three leaflets on each spike.

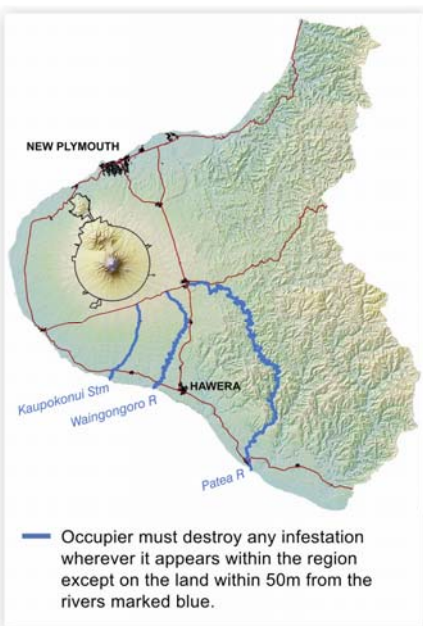
## VALUES AT RISK:

Ecological values are at risk as old man's beard competes with, and smothers desirable plants in all types of bush, in urban gullies, in forests and in riparian margins.

## STRATEGY RULE:

**You must destroy all old man's beard on your property except on land within 50 metres of the rivers shaded blue on the map where control is voluntary.**

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



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](http://www.trc.govt.nz)

infestations on low-growing vegetation, spray the whole vine when in full leaf.

**NOTE** serious infestations of old man's beard will not be eradicated in one season. Seedlings and regrowth will need follow-up treatment.

#### **Guidance for using metsulfuron**

(eg *Escort, Meturon, Zeal*)

- Best results for controlling old man's beard with metsulfuron are achieved when the plant is in full leaf – from November to May.
- If using a handgun – mix 35 gm of metsulfuron, plus 100 ml of a penetrant (such as Pulse or Boost), per 100 L of water.
- If using a knapsack – mix 5 gm of metsulfuron, plus 15 mls of a penetrant (such as Pulse or Boost), per 10 L of water.
- Spray plant foliage and stem 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 applied by a commercial contractor.

#### **Guidance on the use of Triclopyr 600 EC**

(eg *Grazon, Scrubcutter*)

- Best results for controlling old man's beard with Triclopyr 600 EC are achieved when the plant is in full leaf – November to March.
- Mix 400 ml of Triclopyr 600 EC with 100 L of water and a penetrant. Between November and March, a higher rate of application is recommended.
- Spray plant foliage and stems to give complete and uniform coverage to both.
- These products must be under the care of an approved handler when they are applied in a wide dispersive manner, used by a commercial contractor, or applied directly onto or into water.

#### **Guidance on the use of Picloram gel**

(eg *Vigilant*)

- Best results for controlling old man's beard with picloram gel are achieved when the plant is actively growing – from September to March. Apply in fine weather when no rain is expected in the following 12 hours.
- Cut the vines 20 – 100 mm above the ground leaving a horizontal surface on which to apply the gel.
- Immediately apply the herbicide gel to the freshly cut surface. For stems greater than 20 mm in diameter, apply a 5 mm layer of gel. For stems less than

20 mm in diameter, apply a layer of gel about 3 - 5 mm thick. Treat 80 % of the stems including all main stems.

- Dispose of any cut plant material and seed heads carefully.
- This product must be under the care of an approved handler if the substance is used by a commercial contractor or applied directly onto or into water.

#### **Guidance on using glyphosate**

- Best results for controlling old man's beard with glyphosate are achieved from November to March.
- If using a handgun – mix 750 ml to 1.5 L of glyphosate per 100 L of water. Between March and November, the higher application rate is recommended.
- If using a knapsack – mix 150 ml of glyphosate per 15 L of water.
- Spray plant foliage and stems from all sides to give complete and uniform coverage. Use the lower rate for small vines. For vines too high for complete coverage, cut to ground level in winter or spring, and then spray the regrowth at the higher concentration in March.
- Follow-up treatment may be required to kill any seedlings.
- Follow mixing instructions carefully as concentrations of glyphosate vary in the different formulations of this herbicide.
- This product must be under the control of an approved handler when applied onto or into water. Records of use must be kept when applied onto or into water.

#### **Guidance on using clopyralid (eg *Multiple, Versatill, Void*)**

- Best results for controlling old man's beard with clopyralid are achieved when the plant is actively growing – September to March.
- Mix 500 ml of clopyralid, plus 100 ml of a penetrant (such as Pulse or Boost), per 100 L of water.
- For knapsack use – mix 5ml of clopyralid, plus 10 ml of a penetrant per 10 L of water.
- Spray the vine and any regrowth to give complete and uniform coverage.
- These products must be under the control of an approved handler during use if applied in a wide dispersive manner, or used by a commercial contractor. These products must not be used for any purpose, or in any manner, contrary to this label unless authorised under appropriate legislation. Records of use must be kept if using more than 3 L of product within 24 hours.

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

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