

# Worst weeds in the Franklin Area

FRANKLIN LOCAL BOARD



## Climbing Asparagus

*Asparagus scandens*

- Vine that scrambles or climbs. Has soft fern-like foliage and small white flowers in spring, followed by orange-red berries. Will grow in sun or shade, disturbed sites or deep forest.

- Found throughout much of Auckland where it climbs over and smothers native plants especially seedlings.
- Seeds are spread by birds. Vegetative spread from tubers.



## Wild Ginger or Kahili Ginger

*Hedychium gardnerianum*

- Herb which grows up to 2m high in sun or shade. Fragrant yellow flowers appear from February to April. Each yellow flower-head produces 100 seeds.

- Grows fast, displacing native forest. Roots build up to an impenetrable mat on forest floor.
- Seed is dispersed by birds. Vegetative spread from rhizome fragments.



## Woolly Nightshade

*Solanum mauritianum*

- Shrub or small tree with grey-green leaves covered with dense felt-like hairs. Has a strong odour. Clusters of purple flowers. Berries ripen to yellow. Shade tolerant.
- Likes to grow in vacant spaces along road edges or in the bush. Can form dense colonies. Dust from leaves can cause health problems.
- Seeds spread by birds.



## Moth Plant

*Araujia hortorum*

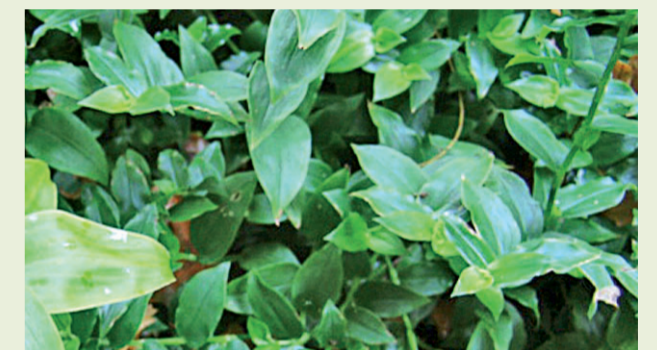
- Vine with pointed leaves and clusters of creamy coloured flowers. Forms large seed pods.
- Plants are long-lived and can smother trees, weighing them down.
- When pods split, up to 1000 thistle-like seeds are released and parachute on the wind for long distances. Seedlings are shade tolerant and grow rapidly.



## Agapanthus

*Agapanthus praecox*

- Type of lily with strappy bright green leaves and showy clusters of blue or white flowers. Prefers sun or semi-shade and colonises roadsides, stream banks and cliffs.
- Grows into dense clumps, excluding other vegetation.
- Spread by natural expansion and deliberate planting. Prolific seeds wash or fall into small niches and grow.



## Tradescantia, Wandering Willie

*Tradescantia fluminensis*

- Shade-tolerant ground cover which roots along stems and has small star-shaped flowers. Quickly creeps over large areas forming dense mats.
- Smothers small plants and prevents regeneration of bush.
- Pieces of stem that break off root easily. Plant is spread by people, water and machinery. May cause dermatitis in dogs.



## Periwinkle

*Vinca major*

- A ground cover and a scrambling perennial with short rhizomes and creeping stems that take root wherever they have contact with the soil. Glossy dark green / green and white leaves; blue-violet, 5-petaled flowers are produced from January to December.
- Forms a thick carpet that smothers other plants even in shade conditions. Stops regeneration of native seedlings
- Rarely seeds; spread mostly by garden waste dumping, or vegetatively.



## Japanese Honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*

- Vine that grows vigorously, up to 15m in one year. Fragrant cream and yellow flowers are followed by black berries. Tolerates low light, drought and frost. Found on roadsides, forest and wetland margins, coastal areas.
- Climbs over and smothers all vegetation beneath it.
- Rarely seeds but is dispersed by fragments growing.



## Blue Morning Glory

*Ipomoea indica*

- Vine with distinctive heart-shaped leaves with showy blue-purple convolvulus-type flowers. Grows rapidly in sun or light shade and in wet or dry soil. Invades forest margins, roadsides.
- Smothers native vegetation either as a ground cover or as a climber.
- Spread by stem fragments rooting.



## Pampas Grass (common and purple)

*Cortaderia selloana, C jubata*

- Grass forming large clumps up to 4m in height. Large amounts of seed are produced in summer on plume-like stalks, coloured pink, purple or white.
- Pampas out-competes other vegetation, is a fire risk and shelters rabbits, rats and possums.
- Seeds dispersed by wind, water, soil, clothes etc.



## Tuber Ladder Fern

*Nephrolepis cordifolia*

- Small ground fern approximately 1m tall, sometimes growing on other plants. Fronds 40-100cm long and erect or arching. Also has 1-3cm potato like tubers in the ground near the surface.
- Shade tolerant, preferring vacant spaces along road edges or in the bush, forming dense colonies.
- Spread vegetatively through tubers and people, and spores spread by water.



## Chinese Privet and Tree Privet

*Ligustrum sinense and Ligustrum lucidum*

- Chinese privet is a shrub that grows to five metres and displaces native shrubs on forest margins.
- Tree privet grows to 14m and will dominate areas of forest. Both plants tolerate a wide range of conditions.
- Seed is dispersed by birds. Leaves and fruit of both are poisonous. The perfume contributes to asthma.



## Jasmine

*Jasminum polyanthum*

- Vine which climbs to mid-canopy height, twines around host. Scented white tubular flowers in spring. Tolerates shade, frost and moisture.
- Forms an impenetrable ground cover, smothers vegetation to mid-canopy.
- Spread mainly by garden escapes or dumped garden refuse, and grows rapidly from stem fragments.



## Blackberry (wild aggregates)

*Rubus fruticosus agg*

- Prickly, scrambling, woody perennial shrub, with backward facing thorns. Leaves are compound and palmate, with three to five oval, toothed leaflets, and prickly stalks and midribs. White/pink flowers in clusters, November - April. Fruit is aggregated and red, ripening to black.
- Displaces and smothers native vegetation. Reduces pasture production and capacity and injures stock.
- Seeds dispersed by birds, other animals, water and soil movement. Vegetative spread from rhizomes.



## Gorse

*Ulex europaeus*

- Spiny shrub with woody stems when mature. Bright yellow pea-like flowers in July to October followed by black seed pods. Grows to 3.5 metres high and forms dense infestations.
- Out-competes native plants or pasture. Harbours pests and is a fire hazard.
- Spread by seed pod ejection, by birds or by soil movement. Seeds can live up to 60 years in soil.



## Himalayan Honeysuckle

*Leycesteria formosa*

- Shade tolerant shrub with green hollow stems, 1-2m tall. Leaves are darkish green with wavy edges.
- Prefers vacant spaces along road edges or in the bush. Can form dense colonies.
- Flowers are red with white at the ends, up to 10cm long. Seeds are spread by birds.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PEST PLANTS GO TO

- Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau Conservation Pest Search:** [tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/](http://tiakitamakimakaurau.nz/protect-and-restore-our-environment/pests-in-auckland/pest-search/)
- Weedbusters:** [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)
- New Zealand Plant Protection Society:** [nzpps.org](http://nzpps.org)
- National Pest Plant Accord:** [mpi.govt.nz/national-pest-plant-accord](http://mpi.govt.nz/national-pest-plant-accord)
- Forest & Bird:** [forestandbird.org.nz](http://forestandbird.org.nz)

- Natural Environment Delivery:** For more information on pest plants and advice on how to control them, please email [pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:pestfree@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

### SYMBOLS KEY



Dig or hand pull



Paint stump



Spray

See over for control methods tailored to each plant



# and how to control them

## Control of Climbing Asparagus

- Dig out. Dispose of tubers, rhizomes and seeds.
- Rot tubers, rhizomes and seeds in covered water barrel or remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** foliar spray with 200ml glyphosate green per 10L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 200ml glyphosate green per 10L of water and 10ml penetrant.
- Do not add penetrant when spraying against tree trunks.

## Messages for weed warriors

- Pest plants destroy native forest and habitat.
- Most pest plants were introduced as garden plants.
- Spray is best used when the plant is actively growing.
- It is best to treat pest plants before they flower.
- If stump painting, do so immediately after the cut.
- Encourage natural revegetation or replant treated areas to establish dense groundcover and minimise reinvasion.
- Do not be disheartened, every little bit of weeding helps.

## Control of Wild Ginger

- Cut stems and dig out rhizomes. Dispose of seeds and rhizomes.
- Small amounts can be rotted in a covered water barrel or remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** for small infestations only, cut stump and paste freshly cut rhizomes with a small amount of metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** cut stump and spray freshly cut base with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water. For areas of wild ginger under native forest reduce rates to 0.5g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.

## Control of Woolly Nightshade

- Dig or pull out. Dispose of seeds. Remove to greenwaste or landfill if practical.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** for small stems cut near ground and paste with double strength glyphosate or picloram gel or frill stem and paste fresh cuts with double strength glyphosate gel or picloram gel. Avoid using picloram near streams and wetlands. Trees are best controlled standing and allowed to breakdown slowly.
- Check for the presence of biocontrol agent (woolly nightshade lace bug) on the underside of leaves.
- **Safety note:** plant can cause irritation to the throat and skin.

## Control of Moth Plant

- Dig or pull out. Dispose of seed pods. Remove to greenwaste or landfill if practical.
- Check for the presence of biocontrol agent (moth plant beetle).
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** cut stump and spray freshly cut base of stems with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.
- **Safety note:** sap is an irritant.

## Control of Agapanthus

- Dig out and cut off seed heads. Dispose of seed heads and rhizomes.
- Small amounts can be rotted in a covered water barrel or remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with double strength glyphosate gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** cut stump and spray freshly cut base with 250ml glyphosate green per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 60ml triclopyr per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.

## Control of Tradescantia

- Rake, roll up or pull out.
- Compost in a composting weed bag for 12 months or more and tip out compost once all stems have decomposed and reuse the bag. Alternatively, remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** for infestations near water, foliar spray with 400ml glyphosate green per 10L of water. For terrestrial infestations, foliar spray with 60ml triclopyr per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant in spring or summer.
- Check for the presence of biocontrol agents (Tradescantia leaf, stem and tip beetles or yellow leaf spot fungus).

## Control of Periwinkle

- Dig out. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 200ml glyphosate green and 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L and 20ml penetrant.

## Control of Japanese Honeysuckle

- Cut vines and leave upper stems to die in trees or dig out. Compost in a composting weed bag or remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** for small infestations, cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** for small infestations: cut stump and spray freshly cut base of stems with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water or cut vines at waist height and foliar spray vines on the ground with 0.5g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** for medium to large infestations: cut vines at waist height and foliar spray vines on the ground with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.
- For infestations amongst desirable species: foliar spray with 50ml clopyralid per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant (not for use in home gardens).
- Check for the presence of biocontrol agent (Honshu white admiral – caterpillar/butterfly).

## Control of Blue Morning Glory

- Cut vines and leave upper stems to die in trees or dig out. Compost in a composting weed bag or remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** for small infestations, cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** for small infestations: cut stump and spray freshly cut base of stems with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water or cut vines at waist height and foliar spray vines on the ground with 0.5g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** for medium to large infestations, cut vines at waist height and foliar spray vines on the ground with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.

## Control of Pampas Grass

- Dig out. Dispose of seeds. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** foliar spray with 200ml glyphosate green per 10L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 200ml glyphosate green per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant. For infestations amongst desirable broadleaf species foliar spray with 150ml haloxyfop-P-methyl per 10L of water.
- Pampas can be distinguished from desirable native toetoe by checking the base of the plant. Pampas produces masses of small, dry curled leaves that sit at the base of the grass stump, native toetoe does not.

## Control of Tuber Ladder Fern

- Dig or pull out. Dispose of tubers. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** foliar spray with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water.

## Control of Tree Privet and Chinese Privet

- Dig out. Dispose of seeds. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** cut stump and spray freshly cut base with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** drill and inject trees with 10g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water if safe to do so. Drill 18mm holes (angled downwards) in a spiral up the trunk. Drill holes 150mm apart. Foliar spray seedlings with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.
- **Safety notes:** large trees must not be ringbarked or drilled that are closer than 1.5 times the height of the tree from paths, walkways and property. Trees over 4 metres in height should be removed by a qualified arborist.

## Control of Jasmine

- Cut vines and leave upper stems to die in trees or dig out.
- Compost in a composting weed bag or remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** for small infestations: cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** for small infestations, cut stump and spray freshly cut base of stems with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water. Cut vines at waist height and foliar spray vines on the ground with 0.5g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** for medium to large infestations: cut vines at waist height and foliar spray vines on the ground with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.

## Control of Blackberry

- Dig out. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- Check for the presence of biocontrol agent (Blackberry rust – self-introduced).
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** foliar spray with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.
- **Safety note:** plant has thorns.

## Control of Gorse

- Dig out. Dispose of seeds. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- Check for the presence of biocontrol agents (gorse pod moth, spider mite, thrip, soft and hard shoot moth).
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel or cut stump and spray freshly cut base of stems with 250ml glyphosate green per 1L of water.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** cut stump and spray freshly cut base with 2g metsulfuron per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant or foliar spray with 60ml triclopyr per 10L of water and 20ml penetrant.
- **Safety note:** plant has spines.

## Control of Himalayan Honeysuckle

- Dig out. Dispose of seeds. Remove to greenwaste or landfill.
- **No agrichemical qualifications:** cut stump and paste freshly cut base of stems with metsulfuron gel.
- **Basic Growsafe certified:** cut stump and spray freshly cut base with 1g metsulfuron-methyl per 1L of water.
- **Certified handler/ experienced agrichemical user:** foliar spray with 5g metsulfuron-methyl per 10L.

## Dispose of weeds safely

Weeds can be spread by not disposing of them properly. It is an offence to dump weeds along roadsides or in bush. Compost your weeds if you can.

Take your environmental weeds to the nearest transfer station that accepts green waste. In Franklin there are transfer stations at the following places:

- Papakura: Inlet Road, Takanini (09 299 8153)
- Whitford: Whitford-Maraetai Road (09 530 8774)
- Waiuku: 5 Hosking Place (09 235 8413)
- Pukekohe: 10 Austen Place (0800 240 120)

Contact them first to find out if any of your environmental weeds are not accepted as green waste.

In rural areas, for alternative options such as outdoor burning, please visit Auckland Council's website [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/licences-regulations/outdoor-fires](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/licences-regulations/outdoor-fires)

## Spray safety

- Handle herbicides carefully and store out of reach of children.
- Keep children, neighbours and neighbours plants a safe distance from the spray.
- Follow the instructions on the packaging carefully.
- Always wear liquid-proof gloves when mixing sprays and keep utensils for the purpose.
- Using a spray hood prevents spray drift.
- Take a course for a Growsafe Certificate: [www.growsafe.co.nz](http://www.growsafe.co.nz)
- Ask your retailer for the brand name of sprays, or 'google'.

This poster has been adapted from one developed by the Waitākere Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Society and the Waitākere Ranges Local Board.