

AQUATIC PEST PLANTS IN THE WAIKATO REGION

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
Production threat	Environmental threat	Public threat		

Alligator weed is one of the world's worst weeds.

Identifying features

- Flower**
 - White papery clover like flowers, up to 13mm in diameter.
 - Flowering is between December and March.
- Fruit/seed**
 - No fruit or seeds are produced in New Zealand. Instead, it spreads aggressively from even the smallest stem fragments.
- Leaf**
 - Waxy, elliptical, 5-10cm long in opposite pairs along a stem.

Control:

If you see this weed on your property, do not cut or treat it. Call 0800 BIOSEC (0800 246 732) to report it to your local biosecurity pest plant officer. Waikato Regional Council will work with landowners to develop a property specific alligator weed management plan.



Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Production threat	Environmental threat	Public threat
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Hornwort is banned from sale, propagation and distribution throughout New Zealand.

Identifying features

- Flower**
 - Green (female) and white (males) in each whorl.
 - Flowering is between November and March.
- Fruit/seed**
 - No viable seed in New Zealand.
- Leaf**
 - Submerged, delicate, freshwater perennial.
 - Equally forked into stiff tapering segments.
 - Dark green leaves (<4cm long).

Control:

- Take care not to inadvertently spread hornwort through contaminated boating equipment. Check and clean boats and equipment before leaving hornwort sites.
- Contact Waikato Regional Council's biosecurity team on 0800 BIOSEC (0800 246 732) for control options in private waterways.



Manchurian wild rice (*Zizania latifolia*)

Exclusion	Eradication (MPI-led)	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
Production threat	Environmental threat	Public threat		

Manchurian wild rice blocks drainage and access to water and increases the risk of flooding.

Identifying features

- Flower**
 - Purplish or red-brown flower head (40-60cm long).
 - Dense and soft to touch.
 - Flowering is between November and December.
- Fruit/seed**
 - Seed heads are usually purplish or red-brown.
- Leaf**
 - Harsh, papery, dull grey-green leaves (2-3cm wide up to 2.5m long).
 - Have a stout midrib and taper to a point.
 - Rustle loudly in the wind.

Control:

- If you see this weed on your property, **do not cut or treat them**. Call 0800 BIOSEC (0800 246 732) to report them to your local biosecurity pest plant officer.






Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Production threat	Environmental threat	Public threat
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Parrot's feather's dense floating mats clog waterways, block drainage, cause flooding and disrupt recreational activities. It is banned from sale, propagation and distribution throughout New Zealand.

Identifying features

 Flower	• Small, single, have no petals.
 Fruit/seed	• No seed set in New Zealand; spread by stem fragment.
 Leaf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submerged stems yellow-green, emerge 10cm above water. • Bright blue-green, deeply divided. • Emergent leaves in whorls of 4-6. • Densely packed at stem ends. • Feathery

Control:

Take care not to inadvertently spread Parrot's Feather through contaminated boating equipment. If you see this weed on your property, do not cut or treat them. Call 0800 BIOSEC (0800 246 732) to report them to your local biosecurity pest plant officer.






Reed sweetgrass (*Glyceria maxima*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
Production threat	Environmental threat	Public threat		

Reed sweetgrass is an aggressive wetland species. Toxic to livestock, it can form impenetrable stands over large areas.

Identifying features

 Flower	• No flower, it's a large perennial grass with erect, broad, bright-green leaves (30-60cm long).
 Fruit/seed	• Large branched seed heads in February.
 Leaf	• Leaf edges rough to touch.

Control:

- Reed sweetgrass can be controlled using glyphosate. Contact Waikato Regional Council's biosecurity team on 0800 BIOSEC (0800 246 732) for more information.






Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
Production threat	Environmental threat	Public threat		

Yellow flag iris is highly toxic to humans and livestock and crowds out other species.

Identifying features

 Flower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large pale to golden yellow 'iris shape' flowers grow on stalks. • Flowering is between September and December.
 Fruit/seed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed capsules contain many smooth, flattened seeds. • Seeds float on water.
 Leaf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad flat sword shaped leaves, in fans from reddish base. • Leaves are 20 to 30mm wide, with a distinct mid-rib. • Leave form a fan shape.

Control:

- You are required to control yellow flag iris on your property.
- 'Weed wipe' or spray with glyphosate (such as Roundup) or metsulfuron (such as Escort). Metsulfuron cannot be used in areas where it may contaminate waterways.

