

Gorse

Ulex europaeus

Description

Woody, deep rooted, spiny with extensive root systems fixing nitrogen into the soil.

Leaves: Are narrow rigid spines. True leaves in seedlings only.

Flowers: Bright yellow, pea-like, in spring and autumn.

Seeds: Held in small pods.

Origin

Native of western Europe. Introduced to New Zealand as a hedge plant.

Where is it found?

Gorse grows almost anywhere where there is enough light, from pasture to pine forests.

It will grow in very poor soils.

How does it spread?

Seeds are spread by the explosive opening of seed pods.

Gorse seeds remain viable in the soil for decades and are often spread by the movement of contaminated soil.

Why is it a problem?

Gorse is a major problem in pasture, often severely limiting stock carrying capacity.

It also competes with newly established pine forests.

**For more information contact a
Bay of Plenty Regional Council
Land Management Officer**



Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Gorse is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any gorse on their properties that is within 10 m of any property boundary.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread gorse in the Bay of Plenty.

How do I get rid of it?

Pasture management: Maintaining a vigorous, dense pasture sward and good fertility will help prevent gorse establishment.

Spraying:

Recommended

Spray with metsulfuron-methyl (e.g. Escort, Meturon, Matrix) during late spring and summer.

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 5 g per 10 L water.

With handgun use 20 g per 100 L water.

Always add a penetrant (e.g. Organosilicone or Pulse) to the spray mix. Use 10 ml for every 10 L water.

Thorough coverage and penetration of the bushes is important. All foliage should be wet to the point of runoff.

Or when gorse is mixed with other broadleaved weeds (e.g. woolly nightshade)

Spray with brushkiller (e.g. Tordon brushkiller, Agpro tricloram brushkiller) during late spring and summer.

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 60 ml per 10 L water.

With gun and hose use 300 ml per 100 litres water.

Other herbicide options are also available.

Aerial spraying: May be appropriate for large areas of plants. Seek the advice of Land Management staff for your situation before spraying.

Note: Regular follow-up treatment will be necessary for some years until the seed bank in the soil is exhausted. An annual spraying programme is advisable.

CAUTION: When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

