

3. Weeds



Buddleia Photo: DOC.



Gorse Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.



Broom Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.



Climbing asparagus Photo: DOC.

3. Weeds

People have introduced many new plants to New Zealand for many different reasons. Some of these plants grow better in New Zealand than they do in the countries they came from. Some have grown so well that they have become pests in our native forests and home gardens.

- Look for the special adaptations that help the weeds to grow so well. Do they have lots of seeds to help them spread quickly? Do they have different ways of reproducing (e.g. runners that put down routes along the ground)? Can they climb up other plants to get to the light? Do they have thorns or prickles to stop animals from eating it?
- Think of ways you can help to protect the native forests from pest plants.

- Watch out for these pest plants in the Orongorongo Valley:
 - Buddleia - this has escaped from home gardens and now takes over the river flats where tutu, a native plant, once grew.
 - Old man's beard – a vine that smothers native plants.
 - Gorse – usually a pest but is now being used as a nursery plant for regenerating native forests.
 - Broom
 - Climbing asparagus

Weeds are plants that are growing in the wrong place!

