



Join the

WAR*ON*WEEDS

Rampant weeds are smothering our native plants and destroying our native landscapes. Help stop them now, and join the action to protect our nature.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Weeds – a growing problem

There are 13 common weeds threatening our native habitat – a baker’s dozen – that you and your community can help bring under control. We call them the Dirty Dozen. **Public Enemy Number 1** – wilding conifers. These self-sown cedars, pines, firs, cypresses, larches and spruces will cover nearly a quarter of New Zealand in the next 20 years if left unchecked.

When these weeds compete with native flora and fauna for sunlight and water, they can severely alter natural landscapes and threaten the survival of native plants and animals. The good news is that together we can stop them spreading to more of our precious natural places.

Why are the Dirty Dozen a problem?

A weed is a plant in the wrong place – an eco-invader that will choke our land and waterways if we do nothing. In less enlightened times many were introduced because they were considered useful or attractive. If we don’t wage War on Weeds they could invade more than half a million hectares of protected land by 2030, posing a threat to a third of New Zealand’s threatened plant species as well as our habitat and biodiversity.

New Zealand has about 3,000 introduced plants that are running wild. Of these, 350 are considered environmental weeds because they threaten our nature. The Dirty Dozen are some of the worst offenders.

**#1
WORST
WEED**



Wilding conifers

Pinus nigra and nine other species

→ If we don’t stop them soon,
20% of New Zealand will be invaded
by wilding conifer forests
within 20 years





English ivy
Hedera helix

→ Strangles the life out of our native trees



Japanese honeysuckle
Lonicera japonica

→ Smothers our native plants in a dense climbing mat



Woolly nightshade
Solanum mauritianum

→ Fast-growing small tree, blocks out natives



Wandering willie
Tradescantia fluminensis

→ Smothering, stops native seedlings from germinating and growing



Buddleia
Buddleja davidii

→ Large shrub, dominates forest edges and stream banks, excluding native species



Wild ginger
Hedychium gardnerianum

→ Spreads quickly, forms impenetrable thickets choking native regeneration



Darwin's barberry
Berberis darwinii

→ Takes over gaps in forests and spreads into the deeper forest



Climbing asparagus
Asparagus scandens

→ Invasive ground cover, strangles natives species



Banana passionfruit
Passiflora tarminiana
and three other species

→ Forms impenetrable carpet across the canopy, smothering native plants



Moth plant
Araujia hortorum

→ Rampant vine, forms a dense mat up in the forest canopy



Old man's beard
Clematis vitalba

→ Invasive climbing vine, smothers trees



Spartina
Spartina alterniflora, *S. anglica*,
Spartina x townsendii

→ Forms a thick mass that clogs estuaries and harbours

WAR*ON*WEEDS – how can you help?

Together we can make a difference for our native plants and wildlife.

DOC, councils, community groups, private landowners and iwi are working collectively to tackle invasive weeds where they threaten native habitats, but we need more help.

You can:

- › Learn to recognise these invasive weeds and how to control them.
- › Check your own backyards and dispose of any invasive weeds carefully.
- › Check you aren't spreading seeds or weed scraps when you travel around.
- › Join a group and work at a local site with others, removing invasive weeds.
- › Apply for DOC community funding if any of the Dirty Dozen are a problem in your local area.

Find out more:

- › Visit www.doc.govt.nz/waronweeds.
- › Contact your local DOC office or your regional council to find a group near you. You can also look for local groups and events at www.weedbusters.org.nz and naturespace.org.nz.
- › *Plant me instead* – these regional booklets will help you replace weeds in your garden with eco-friendly alternatives. Download the booklets from www.weedbusters.org.nz or your regional council website.

