



# 8. Old man's beard

*Clematis vitalba*

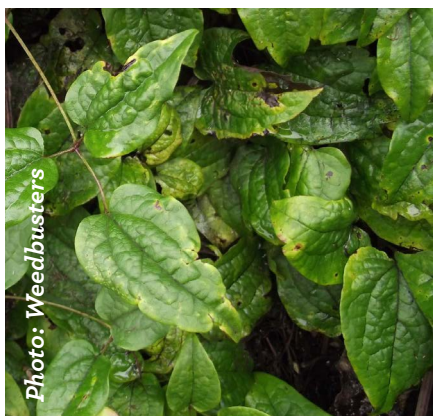
## What is old man's beard?

Old man's beard is a pest plant that has been a problem in NZ for many years. It is an invasive vine that can grow up to 20 metres tall.

## Why is old man's beard a problem for NZ?

Old man's beard grows very quickly compared to native plants and can grow in huge clumps.

This pest plant is dangerous for our NZ forests. It can smother and kill all plants from the highest trees to the little seedlings on the ground.



## How do I know it's old man's beard?

The weed gets its name from its seeds which are grey and hairy. During summer to autumn the white flowers appear.

The leaves are papery and grow in groups of 3-5. Leaves grow opposite each other, with one at the end of the stem. The thin bark can be easily rubbed off the long, pale stems.



## How does it spread?

Old man's beard spreads its seeds with the help of wind or water. Pieces of stem can also grow when moved to other areas.

Old man's beard comes from Europe and South west Asia.



NOTE - Old man's beard can be confused with Native Clematis (*clematis paniculata*). For a comparison, see - [www.terrain.net.nz](http://www.terrain.net.nz)

For more detailed information about old man's beard and how to control its spread see: [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)