

DOC weeds database: sharing information

Good information is the key to managing weeds. The Department of Conservation (DOC) has a national weeds database to support weeds staff. Information can be entered, edited and viewed using web browsers. This database is now available to DOC associates. The structure of the database is built around species, observations and control techniques. Information can be easily retrieved, either as actual records or summary reports.

What is in the DOC weeds database?

- All naturalised and casual exotic plant species, as well as all indigenous flora
- A page for each exotic species with descriptions and distinguishing features
- Extensive lists of synonyms, common names and misapplied names—helping you get to the correct species
- DOC weediness scores for weeds of conservation concern
- Photographs and line drawings to assist with identification
- Distribution records; information from site inventory, casual observations and herbarium records
- Control techniques for most weeds of conservation concern

Any, or all, of this information can be output as reports in MS Excel, MS word or PDF format.

How can DOC staff access the database?

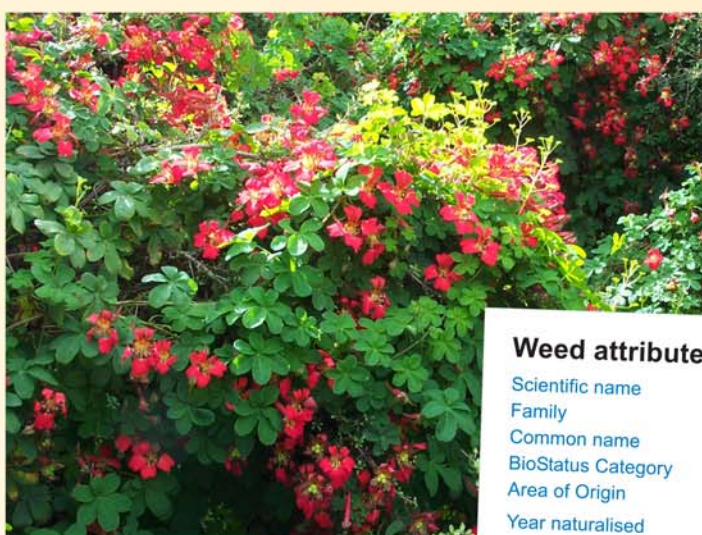
- The database is available read-only on the intranet. DOC Software/BioWeb/Weeds

How can DOC associates access the database?

- First, contact your local DOC office and arrange a demonstration
- Fill in an application form (WGNHO-98308, any DOC office)—DOC technical staff will help you get connected at your site.

Can I contribute?

- If you have species information, new distribution records, control technique information or photographs that you think could be useful, please contact the database administrator.
- Those with write access, can add new observations or control techniques directly to the database—for write access, apply to the database administrator)
- A casual observation form is available. When these are returned to DOC, records can be entered on the weeds database
- The database has a minimum information standard for weed observations:
 - Name of the weed: scientific name is preferred but common name is acceptable
 - Observation date: day month and year is preferred but year alone is acceptable
 - Observer: the name of the person who saw the weed
 - Place name: a description of the place where the weed was observed—this should be sufficiently detailed to allow the infestation to be found by others
 - Spatial reference: New Zealand Map Grid metric coordinates are preferred, but other formats are acceptable



Tropaeolum speciosum



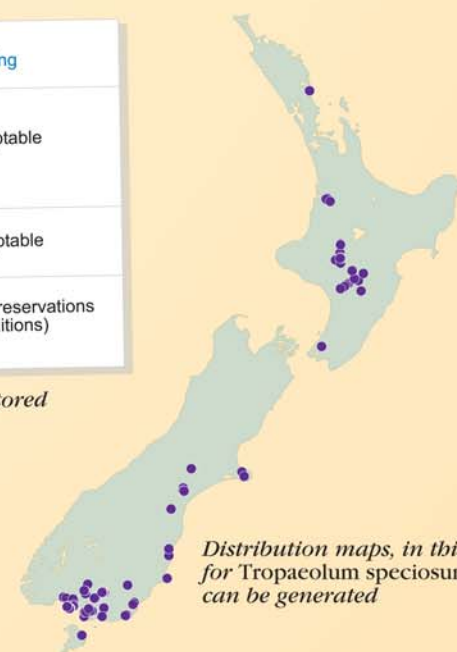
Weed attribute report

Scientific name	<i>Tropaeolum speciosum</i> Poepp. & Endl.
Family	Tropaeolaceae
Common name	Chilean flame creeper
BioStatus Category	Exotic: Fully Naturalised
Area of Origin	Chile
Year naturalised	1958
Reason for introduction	Ornamental
Areas known to be weedy	Not known to be weedy outside New Zealand.
Areas known to be naturalised	North Island, South Island, Stewart Island.
Growth Form Classification	Other Dicot Herbs
Habitat	Terrestrial. Mainly remnant stands of forest, also scrub, sometimes found in more remote forest clearings.
Environmental tolerances	Tolerant of warm-cold temperatures, salt, wind, many soil-types, damp to dry.
Distinguishing features	Climbing perennial, often to high canopy, usually hairless. Rootstock thick. Stems ...
Flowering time	November to April
Dispersal agents	Fruit dispersed by birds
Comments on life cycle	Perennial.
Weediness score	23

Information can be easily retrieved either as actual records or summary reports.

Description	Effectiveness	Non target effects	Ranking
Foliar spray with Tordon Brush Killer 25 ml per 10 L water	Very good results but follow-up required. Chilean flame creeper has been re-moved from a small area in southland using this technique.	Damage to native vegetation can be high if care is not taken	Acceptable
Pull up all of the weed. Dispose	Can be effective but all of the tuber must be removed		Acceptable
Foliar spray with 5g Escort + 5ml Pulse per 10 L water.	This method works quite well	Has more effect on native vegetation than other herbicides (e.g. Tordon BK)	With reservations (conditions)

Best practice control techniques as well as unsuccessful attempts are stored



Distribution maps, in this case for *Tropaeolum speciosum*, can be generated

BioWeb casual plant observation form

Species: *Tropaeolum speciosum*

Place Name: *Taita Scientific Reserve Wellington*

Observer: *Clayson Howell*

Date: 20/04/2003

Map sheet: East North

NZMG Coords: Easting 2674992 Northing 6000987

No. of plants: 2 Abundance: *Dominant* Area occupied: 70 m²/ha

Notes: *Two vines growing over Kahikatea trees*

Date entered: Entered by:

*The Abundance field must be populated from the following list: Dominant (78-100%), Abundant (51-75%), Common (26-50%), Frequent (8-25%), Occasional (2-5%), Scarce (1%).

The casual observation form captures the information needed for the database



New photos are welcomed

In summary

- DOC has a large amount of weed information available on the weeds database
- DOC staff and DOC associates can use and contribute to the DOC weeds database
- Through data capture, information gaps on the database can be identified and remedied
- Large data sets can be forwarded to the database administrator for inclusion
- By sharing weed information through the DOC weeds database, we can improve weed management and conservation outcomes