

# Coastal Weeds

## *To manage for sand dune restoration*

The primary control methods recommended are hand-pulling and the application of herbicide gel. Ensure you identify the most suitable gel for the target species and carefully review the product's safety instructions before use. Any spraying must only be undertaken by a trained and competent operator. For detailed guidance on control techniques specific to each plant type, visit [www.weedbusters.co.nz](http://www.weedbusters.co.nz)

### **Climbing dock, turkey rhubarb, potato vine (Rumex saggittarius)**

#### Identification:

- Scrambling, non woody vine
- Arrow shaped leaves
- Clusters of green to pink flowers that change to masses of yellow pink flat heart shaped seed

#### Prevention:

- Remove all seed

#### Control:

- Hand pull
- Dig out tuberous root



### **Fleabane**

*(Erigeron sumatrensis - syn. Conyza sumatrensis)*

#### Identification:

- Often singular stalk 30 to 60cm tall
- Long slightly jagged edged leaves
- Flowers: numerous small blooms branching from the top of the stem
- Seeds: mature into fluffy, wind-dispersed seed heads

#### Control:

- Hand pull
- Remove before seed develops



*Photo sourced from Weedbusters Carolyn Lewis*

## **Ice plant** (*Carpobrotus edulis*)

### Identification:

- Mat-like ground cover
- Angular fleshy leaves
- Daisy-like yellow to pink flowers

### Control:

- Hand pull and put above ground to avoid re-rooting



Photo sourced from Dave Coless

## **Japanese honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica*)

### Identification:

- Evergreen climber
- Oval leaves in pairs opposite each other on the stem
- Flowers are distinctive white changing to yellow with 2 lips and tubular, and purple black berries

### Control:

- Very difficult so repeat visits to site
- Only replant with natives when the Japanese honeysuckle is checked for no regrowth after 6 months
- Hand pull, cut stems and herbicide paste



Photo sourced from Dave Coless

## **Lotus, greater bird's foot trefoil,**

## **marsh lotus** (*Lotus pedunculatus*)

### Identification:

- Sprawling and climbing
- Non woody 5 to 12 yellow pea flower clusters
- 3 Leaflets with 2 basal leaves

### Control:

- Hand pull



## **Marram grass, european beach grass**

## **(*Calamagrostis arenaria* (syn. *Ammophila arenaria*))**

### Identification:

- Upright 1m tall clumps of slender green, smooth leaves, and dense cylindrical seed heads
- Distinctive by stems trailing across the sand (Marram runners are under the sand)
- Grey coloured slightly fuzzy leaves
- Seed heads blow across the sand dunes and with seed pointing outwards from the top of the stem

### Control:

- Hold plantlets close to the ground and pull Larger plants will need to be dug out
- Chemical control difficult requiring specific timing, concentrations and pre-spraying with water

*Not to be confused by our native Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*).*



Photo sourced from Weedbusters Trevor Jamess

## **Pampas, cutty grass, prince of wales**

## **feathers** (*Cortaderia selloana*)

## **Purple pampas** (*Cortaderia jubata*)

### Identification:

- Large 4m+ (purple pampas 3m+)
- Erect fluffy white-pinkish flowers that fade to white (Purple Pampas – purple)
- Dead curls of leaves at the plant base that tear easily

### Prevention:

- Spreads from large seed production so cut off flower stalks to avoid seed

### Control:

- Hand pull small plants
- Tie tight all leaves together and cut, then immediately coat with herbicide gel (best done in spring or summer)

*Not to be confused by native Toetoe (*Austroderia toetoe*), that has golden drooping flowers and no dead curls of hardy leaves*



Photo sourced from Weedbusters Trevor Jamess

## Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

### Identification:

- Groundcover trailing across the ground
- Glossy, dark green leaves, sometimes variegated green and white, in pairs opposite each other on the stem
- Single violet five petalled flowers

### Control:

- Dig out plant, they easily regrow
- Remove plant from area
- Only replant with natives when the Periwinkle is checked for no regrowth after 12 months



Photo sourced from *Weedbusters Carolyn Lewis*

## Ragwort (*Senecio elegans*)

## Pink ragwort (*Senecio glastifolius*)

### Identification:

- Smelly
- 30 to 120cm tall
- Wavy deeply lobed leaves (Pink Ragwort not deeply lobed, but toothed edged leaves)
- Single stems have clusters of yellow daisy like flowers
- Pink Ragwort has pink daisy like flowers

### Control:

- Hand pull and try to dig out roots



Photo sourced from  
Dave Coless



Photo sourced from  
*Weedbusters Trevor Jamess*

## Smilax, bridal creeper

## (*Asparagus asparagoides*)

### Identification:

- Scrambling vine
- Oval pointed glossy leaves
- Zig zag stems with small white flowers with petals that hang backwards with distinctive anthers
- Rose-coloured lobed fleshy fruit

### Control:

- Dig out tubers and dispose of plant material to transfer station



## Sydney golden wattle (*Acacia longifolia*)

### Identification:

- Fast growing small tree /shrub
- Smooth coarse long leaves
- Small pale to golden flowers in cylindrical fluffy looking clusters

### Control:

- Cut as close to the ground as possible and herbicide paste



Photo sourced from *Weedbusters Trevor Jamess*



Photo sourced from *Weedbusters Carolyn Lewis*

## Tree lupin, yellow bush lupin

(*Lupinus arboreus*)

### Identification:

- 2-3m
- Pale yellow flowers in October to May
- Leaves have 5 to 11 leaflets from one centre point

### Prevention:

- Large seed production that survives a long time so cut off newly formed seed pods

### Control:

- Hand pull small plants
- Cut close to the ground and paste with herbicide gel.
- Keep control ongoing because seedlings will grow constantly from historic seed in the ground



Photo: Trevor James



**Sea spurge**

Photo sourced from Weedbusters Carolyn Lewis

## Non-native plants in the dunes

Many plants that don't belong are spreading across our dunes. While some may look attractive in gardens, species such as agapanthus spp., gazania spp., and arctotis spp. should never be found in dune ecosystems.

Horizons actively manages invasive plants under the Regional Pest Management Plan.

- Eradication list includes: (Manawatū River catchment) alligator weed, gunnera, african feather grass, woolly nightshade, climbing spindleberry, and blue passionflower
- Progressive containment list includes: boneseed and old man's beard

Horizons works alongside DOC to control spartina, and partners with multiple agencies to tackle sea spurge.

Replace areas cleared of weeds with native plants such as listed in our Coastal Planting for sand dune restoration guide which has recommended species for the Horizons Region.

## What you can do:

Learn to recognise these species and report any sightings to Horizons. Your vigilance helps protect our dunes and native biodiversity.



**0508 800 800**



**Sea spurge**



**Phragmites karka**



**Boneseed**

Right Photo sourced from Weedbusters Trevor Jamess