

5.28 Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

Why is it a threat?

Senegal tea is a perennial, semi-aquatic herb which grows to 1.5 metres when flowering. It originates from Central and South America. It spreads by vegetative fragmentation. New plants are produced from stem nodes and by seed. It forms dense floating mats which can quickly cover waterbodies. They exclude native flora and fauna and impede water flows and navigation and recreational activities.



Two small infestation associated with managed gardens have been successfully eradicated from Marlborough. With no re-emergence from these infestations, and with no other infestations located, Marlborough is currently free from this threatening aquatic herb.

5.28.1 Objective

Over the term of the RPMP, prevent the establishment of Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*) in the Marlborough district to prevent future impacts on environmental values and the enjoyment of the natural environment.

Intermediate Outcome:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	Sustained Control	Site-led
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Principle measures to achieve the objective

1) Council Inspection and Service Delivery

- a) Delivering a service to respond and investigate reports of Senegal tea in Marlborough.
- b) Delivering a service to control Senegal tea if found, in liaison with the occupier.
- c) Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- d) Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- e) Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

2) Requirement to Act

Land owners and/or occupiers or other persons may be required to act where rules or statutory obligations dictate:

- a) The presence of pests is to be reported.
- b) Pests are not to be spread (propagated, sold or distributed).

3) Advocacy and Education

Council may:

- a) Provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to land owners and/or occupiers and the public about pests and pathways (and control of them).
- b) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers to control pests.
- c) Promote industry requirements and best practice to contractors and land owners and/or occupiers.
- d) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers and other persons to report any pests they find.

- e) Facilitate or commission research.

5.28.2 Rules

Rule 5.28.2.1

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of Senegal tea (*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*) on land they occupy within 5 working days of the initial observation.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

Note: Historical distribution data is able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

Explanation of the rule:

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) to assist Council with surveillance. Requiring occupiers to notify Council of new sites and plants on their properties, in addition to Council's own surveillance, will assist Council in achieving the objective of the programme. New infestations will be able to be controlled and incorporated into the programme.

Notifying the Council of the presence of the specified pest will enable the Council to:

- Update its records.
- Map new sites of this pest.
- Carry out control work before they spread.
- Determine whether new control regimes should be considered.
- Provide advice and information to occupiers where appropriate.

Council as the management agency will administer the rule.