

Protect your productivity

Protect your livelihood

Protect your investment

Pest plants and farm biosecurity

Why should I be concerned about farm biosecurity?

Pest plants such as Chilean needle grass can damage New Zealand's agricultural production industries and our natural environment and pose a significant threat to their sustainability. They can decrease productivity, impact negatively on farming practices and property values and reduce biodiversity.

Pest plants can spread to your property by natural means or through the movements of people, animals, crops, vehicles, machinery and equipment as well as in soil, mud and contaminated seed and feed.

As such, it is crucial for you, as a landowner, to take responsibility for farm biosecurity.

Further information

For further information regarding how you can protect your property from pest plants as well as other pests and diseases that affect plants or animals contact your regional authority.

**Chilean Needle Grass
AWARENESS PROGRAMME**



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Pest plants and farm biosecurity

What is farm biosecurity?

Farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests (plants or animals) and diseases.

What can I do to protect my property?

People, animals, vehicles, machinery and equipment as well as soil, mud and contaminated feed can all carry seeds of pest plant origin. By implementing some basic vehicle hygiene and farm biosecurity practices on your property, you can minimise the risk of spreading pest plants onto your property.

- Ensure that all staff are familiar with how to identify key pest plant threats such as Chilean needle grass and that they know the best time of year to look for them.
- Limit the number of entry and exit points to your property. This will limit the potential pest plant entry sites and allow you to monitor these areas closely. Gates to restricted access areas should be locked.
- Display biosecurity signs with clear instructions and contact details at all vehicle access points to inform visitors, whether contractors or guests, of your biosecurity status and what you require from them.



- Ensure that all staff and visitors, whether contractors or guests, check that their vehicles, machinery, equipment, boots and clothing are clean and free from soil, mud and seed before entering the property.

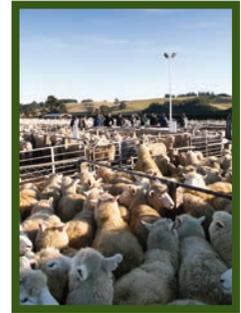
- If necessary, use high pressure water to wash down dirty vehicles, machinery and equipment and provide brushes to sweep out vehicle interiors. Clean vehicles and machinery from the top down and dismantle machinery as far as possible to gain access to internal spaces.



An air compressor may be useful for cleaning engine components and shearer's handpieces. Ideally, the wash area should be hardstanding and should have a sump to collect any wastewater. If runoff cannot be avoided, however, it should be ensured that it is directed away from pens, yards, paddocks, crops and waterways. Areas around the wash area should be checked regularly for pest plants.

- Provide footbaths and scrubbing brushes to remove soil and mud from dirty boots.
- Source only certified seed or propagation material.
- Before purchasing stock or grazing someone else's stock on your property, ask questions about where the stock have come from and whether they could be carrying seeds of pest plant origin. Similarly, if you are considering grazing your own stock off your property think about

where the stock are going and whether they could be carrying seeds of pest plant origin when they return to your property. If in doubt, contact your regional authority. Consider quarantining stock in a designated holding paddock before letting them onto the rest of the property. The holding paddock should be checked regularly for pest plants.



- If using a stock truck, ensure that it was washed down thoroughly after the last contracted job to reduce the risk of your stock picking up seeds of pest plant origin during transit.



- Ensure that any feed you purchase is free from pest plants and their seeds. If in doubt, contact your regional authority. Paddocks in which you have fed stock using purchased feed should be checked regularly for pest plants.
- Ensure that farm dogs are not carrying seed and that horses' hooves and fetlocks are free of soil, mud and seed before letting them on the property.



What should I do if I have found something unusual on my property?

If you have found anything unusual on your property or suspect that you have purchased contaminated seed, propagation material, stock or feed, report it to your regional authority immediately.