

## 5.32 White-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*)

### Why is it a threat?

White-edged nightshade is a large shrub or tree with aggressive spines. It originates from North Africa. It will grow up to 3 metres high and will form dense thickets, which become impenetrable and displace preferred pasture species. It will also displace native species in ecosystems that are vulnerable.



There is one geographic area in Marlborough that contain the only known infestations of white-edged nightshade. That is the Forsyth/Beatrix Bay area. The four affected properties are associated with historical pastoral farming in the area that likely resulted in the source and initial spread of the species. Since then, one of these properties (and historically the most heavily infested) is now rapidly reverting to native scrub. This is in fact out-competing the pest in many areas. However, surrounding properties still face the challenge of preventing infestations reaching problem levels.

### 5.32.1 Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, control white-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*) in the Marlborough district (excluding the White-edged Nightshade Containment Area) to less than or equal to 2016 levels to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

#### Intermediate Outcome:

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive Containment	<b>Sustained Control</b>	Site-led
-----------	-------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	----------

#### Principle measures to achieve the objective

##### 1) Requirement to Act

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

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

##### 2) Council Inspection

Inspection by Council may include staff or contractors:

- a) Carrying out inspections to ensure occupiers are meeting obligations.
- b) Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- c) Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- d) Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

### 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.

## 5.32.2 Rules

### Rule 5.32.2.1

Occupiers shall destroy all white-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*) plants, on land that they occupy before they produce seed, except in areas of land they occupy that falls within the White-edged Nightshade Containment Area (see Map 11, page 86), which is subject to Rule 5.32.2.2.

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

### Rule 5.32.2.2

Occupiers of land within the White-Edged Nightshade Containment Area (see Map 11, page 86) shall destroy all white-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*), on land they occupy before they produce seed, within 50 metres of the Containment Area boundary.

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

**Note:** The White-Edged Nightshade Containment Area boundary is able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

### Rule 5.32.2.3

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of white-edged nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*) on land that 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:** Current distribution data is able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

#### ***Explanation of the rule:***

The purpose of Rule 5.32.2.1 is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) in that all occupiers without a heavy infestation are being required to take specified actions to prevent the pest establishing on that land.

The purpose of Rule 5.32.2.2 is in accordance with section 73(5)(h) in that the occupiers of land where heavy infestation occur are required to take specified actions to prevent spread pressure on the edges of the Containment Area.

The purpose of Rule 5.32.2.3 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 these rules.



Map 11: White-Edged Nightshade Containment Area