

5.35 Woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*)

Why is it a threat?

First recorded in New Zealand in 1883, woolly nightshade is an invasive lowland shrub that can grow to trees 8-10 metres high and is now widely established in northern parts of the New Zealand. It is an aggressive and fast growing plant; each plant can live for 20 years. Once established, it can form dense, exclusive colonies, crowding out other plants and preventing native plant regeneration. The dust from the leaves and stems can irritate the skin, eyes, nose and throat. Each plant can produce thousands of seeds which are dispersed by birds that eat the berries. It reproduces very quickly in that seedlings germinated in summer are able to flower and produce seeds by autumn.



Infestations of this plant are very limited in Marlborough. The most substantial is an infestation within the Port Hardy, on Rangitoto ki te Tonga/D'Urville Island. Other small infestations occur in Moetpau Bay and Moenui.

Objective

Over the duration of the RPMP, control woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*) in the Marlborough district by maintaining or reducing the number of plants found in known areas to minimise adverse effects on economic wellbeing, the environment and 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

Inspection by Council may include staff or contractors:

- Delivering a service to control woolly nightshade in liaison with the occupier.
- Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- 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:

- The presence of pests is to be reported.
- 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.

Rules

Rule 5.35.2.1

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of woolly nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*) 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 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.