

Regional Pest Management Strategy Operational Plan Report

2012/2013



**MARLBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cover Photos

Front cover: African feathergrass (*Pennisetum macrourum*) in Grovetown Lagoon.

Rear cover: White-Edged Nightshade (*Solanum marginatum*) in the outer Marlborough Sounds.



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Regional Pest Management Strategy Operational Plan Report 2012/2013

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Executive Summary

The majority (76%) of performance measures have been achieved throughout the year.

The 10 (24%) targets that were either almost achieved or not achieved will form the basis of improvement over the coming year.

The Total Control pest programme continues to show tremendous gains. All pest species are showing a downward trend with some getting very low in abundance. Even so, the investment must continue in order to achieve the objective of eradication.

The Containment Control pest programme remains the largest for Marlborough District Council staff due to the number of properties involved and continued facilitation of those landholders to ensure obligations are met. Overall, the level of control work carried out across remains high with a Notice of Direction only needing to be issued on 36 occasions when undertaking a total of 411 physical inspections.

A work programme that requires more attention and more structured internal management is the Chilean Needlegrass programme. As it happens, a shift is underway which will alter the way the Marlborough District Council interacts with landholders and provide a greater deal of contact, coordination and now financial assistance.

Through the surveillance of invasive ants, and findings relating to Argentine Ants, this programme is looking to become more structured with the possibly of the inclusion of Argentine Ants into the new Regional Pest Management Plan. Further surveillance and trial control projects will help guide what direction is taken in the future.

Marlborough District Council staff remain heavily involved in a range of wider biosecurity initiatives. This includes the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership and Freshwater Pest Partnership. In June 2013, Marlborough District Council staff took the lead in an incursion response to the marine pest *Styela clava* in Picton. This response is on-going.

1. Introduction

The Regional Pest Management Strategy for Marlborough (the Strategy) was made operative on 17 December 2012. It was the result of a review that spanned major amendments to the Biosecurity Act 1993 in September 2012. Because of this, the review was carried out under transitional provisions within the Act which meant it was completed under the previous version of the legislation. This report will also retain the terminology and structure as per the existing Strategy until such a time it is reviewed under the new legislation.

The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework for the efficient and effective management or eradication of pests and unwanted organisms so as to:

- (a) Minimise actual and potential adverse and unintended effects associated with the targeted pests; and
- (b) Maximise the effectiveness of individual pest management through a regionally co-ordinated approach.

The Strategy classifies a number of plants and animals in the region as pests, and specifies the management regime for each pest. For each pest the management programme sets out the effects of the pest to be addressed, the objective to be achieved and the main methods to achieve the objective, including rules relating to each pest.

1.1 Purpose of Operational Plan Report

The Operational Plan for 2012/13 was prepared in accordance with Section 85 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (pre 2012 amendments) and identifies and outlines the nature and scope of activities the Marlborough District Council intends to undertake in the implementation of its Regional Pest Management Strategy. This report outlines progress of the Operational Plan in the 2012/13 year and outlines key achievements/performance measures for the year.

1.2 Linkages

The Operational Plan (and subsequent Reports) is integrated, as far as possible, with the Marlborough District Council's Regional Policy Statement, Resource Management Plans and the Marlborough District Council Long Term Plan 2012-2022. The Long Term Plan provides an overview of all Marlborough District Council functions, including pest management and biosecurity activities for 2012/2013.

This Operational Plan Report should also be read in conjunction with the Strategy.

2. Pest Management Programmes

2.1 Introduction

The Strategy classifies 33 plant and 4 animal species as pests because they cause, or are capable of causing, a significant negative impact on Marlborough's economy and/or environment. The Strategy separates individual pests into classifications, which require various levels of intervention.

The management regime for each pest applies to all or a specified part of the land within the district. In most situations the obligation lies with the land occupier to actually carry out the control of these pests. The only exception is for pests classified as 'Total Control' where either the Marlborough District Council or the Department of Conservation will implement control programmes directly.

Marlborough District Council is primarily responsible for the co-ordination of pest control programmes, ensuring occupiers comply with their obligations, carrying out surveillance to determine new infestations of pests and educating and advising land occupiers as to the most appropriate form of control for each pest.

2.2 Pest Plant Status

The table below summarises the district's pest plants and their designated status as classified in the Strategy.

Plant Pest Species	Status	Comments
African Feathergrass	Total Control	Marlborough District Council initiative. These pest plants are limited in their distribution but have the potential to severely affect either pastoral farming or cereal harvesting and/or environmental values in the district. Implementation of these programmes is delivered by the Marlborough District Council. The cost of control for these pest plants is shared between the Marlborough District Council (75%) and the land occupier (25%) where the infestation occurs.
Bathurst Bur		
Bur Daisy		
Saffron Thistle		
Giant Needlegrass		
Chinese Pennisetum		
Parrots Feather		
Boneseed	Total Control	Marlborough District Council/Department of Conservation joint initiative. These pest plants are limited in their distribution but have the potential to invade large areas of the district's indigenous forest, scrub or waterways. Implementation of these programmes is delivered by the Marlborough District Council/Department of Conservation. The cost of control for these pest plants is shared between the Department of Conservation and the Marlborough District Council.
Climbing Spindleberry		
Eel Grass		
Madeira Vine		
Moth Plant		
Spartina		
Evergreen Buckthorn		
Senegal Tea		
Cathedral Bells		

Plant Pest Species	Status	Comments
Nassella Tussock	Containment Control	Land occupiers are required to annually destroy all plants on their properties before they produce seed.
Chilean Needlegrass		Land occupiers are required to annually destroy plants on their properties before they produce seed.
White-Edged Nightshade		The degree of intervention required by land occupiers to manage these pest plants depends on the classification of each property. The control requirements range from the destruction of all plants on Fringe properties to a boundary control regime on Core properties.
Kangaroo Grass		
Broom and Gorse		Land occupiers are required to progressively control broom in the Upper Awatere and broom and gorse in the Upper Wairau River catchments. All land occupiers are required to destroy all broom and gorse plants within 10 metres of their property boundary if the adjacent property is free of these pest plants.
Ragwort		Land occupiers are required to destroy Ragwort plants within 50 metres of their property boundary if the adjacent property is free of this plant pest.
Nodding Thistle		Land occupiers are required to destroy Nodding Thistle plants within 100 metres of their property boundary if the adjacent property is free of this plant pest.
Contorta Pine		Land occupiers are required to destroy all plants with the exception of properties located directly adjacent to the Wye Reserve.
Reed Sweet Grass		The Marlborough District Council is responsible for controlling this pest plant.
Blue Morning Glory	Surveillance	The key objective for management of these pests is to monitor their distribution, their impacts and gain some understanding of the spread of these organisms over time.
Climbing Asparagus		
Egeria		
Cotton Thistle		
Kahili Ginger and Yellow Ginger		
Lagarosiphon		
Purple Loosestrife		



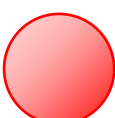

2.3 Animal Pest Status

The table below summarises the district's animal pests and their designated status as classified in the Strategy.






Animal Pest	Status	Comments
Rook	Total Control	Successful Rook control has been carried out in Marlborough and ongoing surveillance to monitor any re-establishment continues. No rookeries have re-established since 2005. If rooks were allowed to re-establish they are capable of causing significant damage to cereal crops and pasture. The Marlborough District Council will carry out any Rook control within its district with the aim of eradication.
Rabbits	Containment Control	High Rabbit populations affect soil and water quality have a detrimental impact on economic production and increase the risk of soil erosion. It is the Marlborough District Council's responsibility to ensure land occupiers comply with their obligation to control Rabbits. Marlborough District Council will continue to carry out Rabbit population trend monitoring and offer advice on control.
Possums		Possums cause extensive defoliation of native forest and predate on native fauna. At present in Marlborough there are no Possums on our offshore islands. A rule in the Strategy prohibits the release of Possums onto any offshore island in the Marlborough Sounds. Possums are vectors of bovine Tb and can cause large economic loss to the beef and dairy industry. Possums also cause extensive damage to young commercial forestry plants. Currently AHB undertake possum control.
Invasive Ants	Surveillance	Darwin Ants are in the Strategy as an invasive species that originates from Australia. Surveillance for these and other invasive ants will be carried out annually to determine their presence and/or distribution.

2.4 Performance Scoring System



To help guide readers through the ensuing performance measures, a traffic light system has been adopted to highlight those measures achieved, partially achieved or not achieved.

Symbol	Definition
	<p>Achieved. All actions have been taken with the measure achieved.</p>
	<p>Almost Achieved. Actions have been undertaken but the measure has not been fully achieved for reported reasons.</p>
	<p>Not Achieved. Actions have not be undertaken to the level required or not been undertaken at all and the measure has not been achieved.</p>
	<p>Not applicable. No actions were required to measure against the target.</p>

3. Total Control Pest Objectives and Performance Targets

Objective			
To eradicate Total Control pest plants from Marlborough.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Action Taken to Meet Targets
3.1 95% of known active Total Control pest sites controlled by 30 June 2013. ⁽¹⁾	73% of active sites were visited in 2012/2013. For two species – Boneseed and Moth Plant – a prioritisation system has been implemented which meant not all sites were visited. These species are subject to a review of classification to better match the on-ground management of these pests.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, implement and manage services required to carry out control operations. Carry out surveillance work for each of the 16 Total Control pest plants to make up a minimum of 200 hours. Record and maintain pest plant abundance and distribution data to enable trend monitoring over the duration of the Strategy. Recover 25% of the control costs, as deemed reasonable.
3.2 Carry out not less than 200 hours of surveillance for Total Control pest plant spread outside known sites by 30 June 2013. ⁽¹⁾	66.25 hours of surveillance work for Total Control pest plants was carried out away from known sites. 1756 hours of control work was carried out for Spartina of which the majority would have been surveillance. However the split was not made.		
3.3 No new infestations resulting from spread from known sites of these pest plants established in Marlborough.	8 new sites of Moth Plant and 1 new site of Maderia Vine were found during surveillance work. They are all new infestations and not the result of existing infestations.		
3.4 A measured decline to <4500 pest plants (excluding Boneseed, Spartina and Eel Grass) destroyed over all sites by June 2013.	2074 pest plants were destroyed over all sites		
3.5 Recover, by 30 June 2013, 25% of all costs for those Total Control pest plants identified in the Marlborough District Council initiative.	25% of the cost of Bur Daisy control has been recovered from the land occupier. The other occupiers where Total Control activities occur either do not meet the definition of a major beneficiary or they contribute through in-kind support.		

⁽¹⁾ Target that aligns directly with the Marlborough District Council 's Annual Plan targets.

Objective			
To ensure Rooks do not establish in Marlborough.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Action taken to meet Targets
3.6 Annually monitor all historical rookeries in Marlborough (if those sites remain in existence) by 30 June 2013.	Monitoring was carried out by way of contact with the two landholders where Rooks have resided in the last 10 years. No reports of Rook activity were received by the Marlborough District Council.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively seek public and land occupier reports of sightings of Rooks. Carry out an annual Rook survey and report on population trends. Plan and implement a control programme if required and conditions are suitable.
3.7 Implement a control programme, if required, by 30 June 2013.	No Rook control programmes were required.		

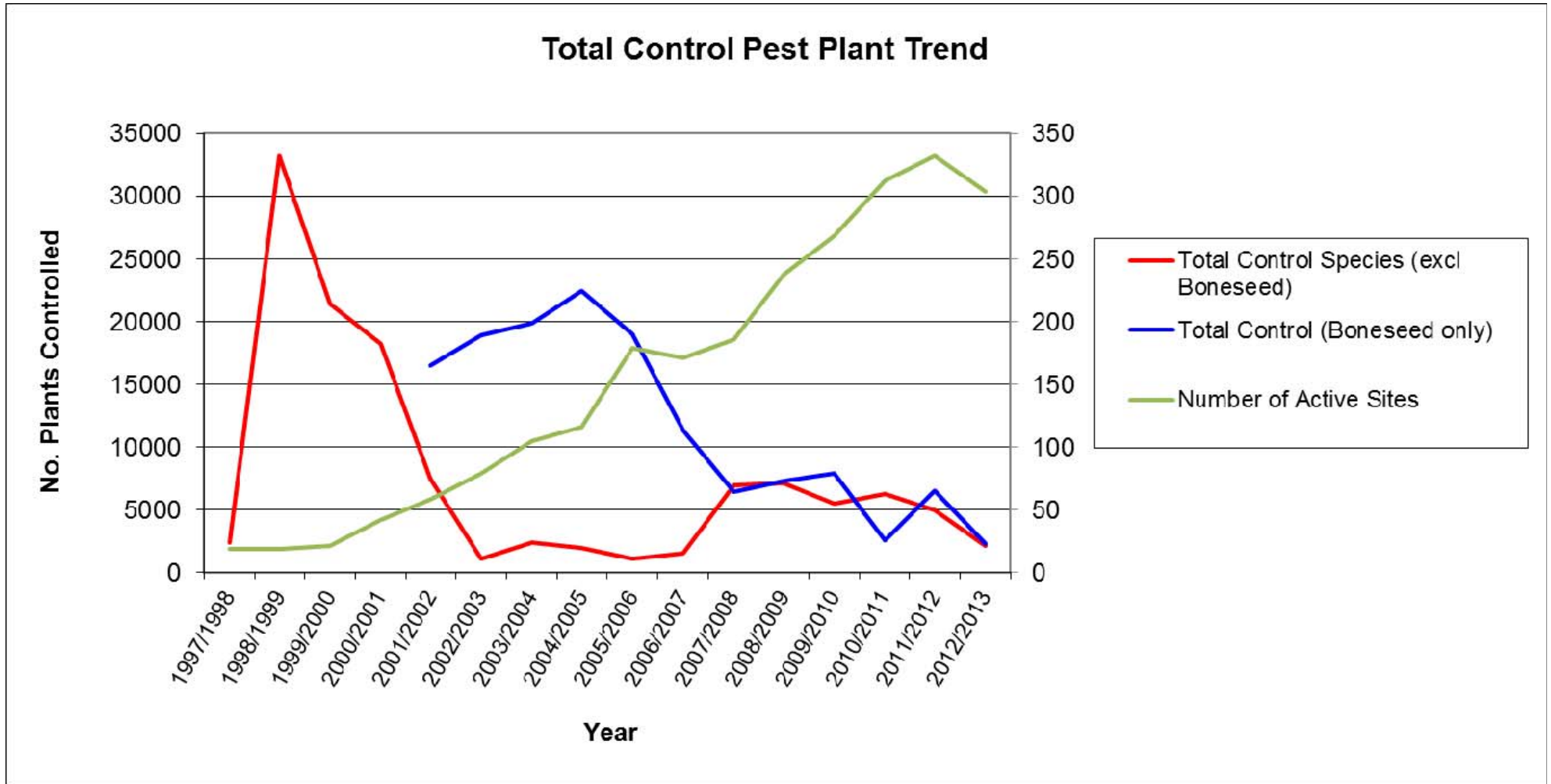











Figure 1: Total Control Pest Plants Trend

Note: Individual trends can be found in Appendix 1.









4. Containment Control Pest Objectives and Performance Targets


Objective			
To prevent any increase in the distribution and density of pest plants and reduce infestation levels where possible.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Action Taken to Meet Target
4.1 Prepare and distribute pest plant control programmes to land occupiers, where active infestations of pest plants occur, by 30 June 2013.	*Note: The 12 month period for Nassella Tussock data commences in the previous financial year on 1 March 2012. 505 control programs were issued to land occupiers with Containment Control pest plants.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annually prepare control programmes for all land occupiers where an active infestation of a pest plant occurs. Prioritise pest plants for inspection and carry out inspections or verify compliance. Carry out enforcement action where required to ensure that occupiers meet their obligations to control pest plants. Plan, implement and manage services required to carry out control operations. Prioritise pest plants for inspection and carry out surveillance. Any spread of pest plants to be recorded by GPS or field map notation and captured on the Marlborough District Council GIS for later mapping and area calculation.
4.2 85% of sites inspected or audited to confirm the control programmes have been undertaken to standard by 30 June 2013. ⁽¹⁾	437 of the 505 or 86.5% of properties issued with a control programme were inspected or audited to determine compliance. 411 were physically inspected and 26 were audited via compliance returns.		
4.3 <50 land occupiers issued with notices of direction under the non-compliance requirements of the Strategy rules.	36 land occupiers were issued with a Notice of Direction.		
4.4 Undertake not less than 200 hours of Containment Control pest plants surveillance by 30 June 2013. ⁽¹⁾	573.45 hours of surveillance work was carried out for Containment Control pest plants.		
4.5 Complete planned control operations for Reed Sweet Grass by 30 June 2013.	Reed Sweet Grass control operations went smoothly at all known sites with all plants located being destroyed. All sites, with the exception of D'Urville Island, were ranged twice.		

<p>4.6 Update guidelines for Taskforce herbicide use to reflect changes in registration by 30 June 2013.</p>	<p>A new pamphlet was produced for Taskforce herbicide which includes the aerial application of the product and Kangaroo Grass.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to progress the Reed Sweet Grass control programme on D'Urville Island as well as those sites on the mainland. • Ensure external Core boundary control is achieved. • Ensure that all Chilean Needlegrass and Kangaroo Grass on Fringe properties are destroyed in accordance within Strategy rules. • Plan and target specific areas of control where Pinus Contorta has spread from the containment area.
<p>4.7 Inspect 100% of external boundaries of Chilean Needlegrass Core properties that form the outer limit of the Core area.</p>	<p>23 out of the 27 (85%) Chilean Needlegrass core properties were inspected for boundary compliance.</p>		
<p>4.8 Inspect 100% of all Chilean Needlegrass and Kangaroo Grass Fringe properties.</p>	<p>66 out of the 73 (90%) land occupiers issued with a control programme for Chilean Needlegrass were inspected. 7 properties were not prioritised for inspection due to time constraints and a very good history of compliance. 15 of the 18 (83%) land occupiers issued with a control programme for Kangaroo Grass were inspected. 3 were not inspected as it was deemed unnecessary.</p>		
<p>4.9 Complete planned control operations for Pinus Contorta by 30 June 2013.</p>	<p>A control operation was organised to aerially spray spill over spread of Pinus Contorta on selected boundaries of the containment area. This operation was completed in March 2013 and treated a total of 14 hectares.</p>		

Objective

To minimise the impacts that feral rabbits have on pasture production, crops, forestry plantations and soil conservation values in Marlborough by maintaining feral pest rabbit populations at levels at or below the maximum allowable level (MAL) identified for the two sub-regions, the 'Upper Awatere/Clarence' and the 'Remainder of the area within the District'.

Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Action Taken to Meet Target
4.10 Complete initial inspections of properties identified for inspection by 30 June 2013.	A total of 26 property inspections were undertaken to assess rabbit population levels.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a geographical representative sample of properties deemed 'at risk' of Rabbit population increase by end March and implement an inspection regime. Where Rabbit infestations exist above the maximum allowable level, issue a control programme and where possible provide an adaptive management approach to ensure the land occupier can meet their responsibilities. Re-inspect all properties issued with a control programme to ensure compliance. Carry out the planned population trend monitors.
4.11 Prepare and distribute pest Rabbit control programmes, by 30 June 2013, to land occupiers where populations exist above the MAL.	No control programmes were issued in 2012/13.		
4.12 <4 land occupiers exceed the Strategy rule MAL 4 as at 30 June 2013.	No properties are known to be in breach of MAL 4.		
4.13 <10 land occupiers exceed the Strategy rule MAL 3 as at 30 June 2013.	No properties are known to be in breach of MAL 3.		
4.14 Complete compliance inspections of previous year's control programmes by 30 October 2013. ⁽¹⁾	No control programmes were issued in 2011/12 and as a result, there was not a requirement to undertake any control programme compliance inspections during 2012/13.		
4.15 Trend monitor the 12 established night count transects by 30 June 2013.	An additional Rabbit night count transect was established at coastal Ward making a total of 13 transects. All transects – excluding one at Molesworth – were monitored. The 'Kiritown' transect at Molesworth was not monitored this year as safe passage across the Acheron River was not available.		

Objective			
To prevent the establishment of Possums on offshore islands in the Marlborough Sounds.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Action taken to meet Target
4.16 Respond to reported sighting of Possums on offshore islands within five working days.	No reports or sightings of possums were fielded by the Marlborough District Council or the Department of Conservation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit public feedback on any Possums sighted on all offshore islands. • Report all sightings to the Department of Conservation who will undertake investigations with Marlborough District Council staff in support, if required.

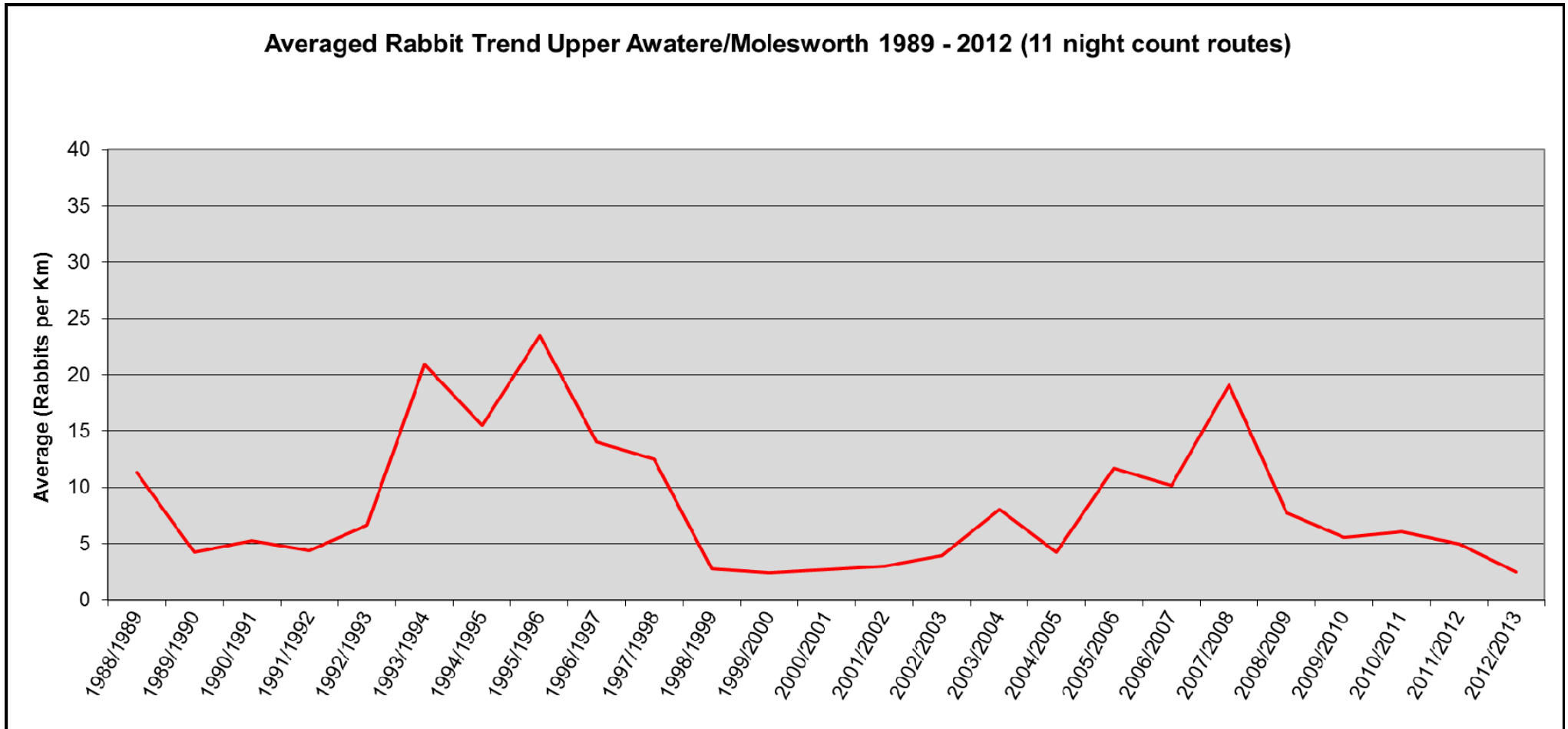






Figure 2: Averaged Rabbit trend from the Upper Awatere/Molesworth night count routes



Photos:
Top left – Plate 3: Preparing to aeri ally spray Contorta Pine (*Pinus contorta*) spread in the upper reaches of the Wye River catchment.
Top right – Plate 4: Landholders undertaking the boundary control of Chilean Needlegrass in the Blind River area.
Left – Plate 5: Marlborough District Council staff treating (blue marker dye) a new, isolated infestation of Chilean Needlegrass on the outskirts of Blenheim.

5. Surveillance – Pests

Objective			
To monitor the distribution, the impacts and the spread of surveillance pests, fund appropriate research projects regarding surveillance pests and educate the public as to their identification and most appropriate method of control.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Action Taken to Meet Target
5.1 Undertake surveillance and evaluate pest distribution and impacts for Darwin Ants and other invasive ant species and report findings by 30 June 2013.	Following a report of invasive ants at Rarangi, surveillance priorities were adjusted and broad presence/absence surveillance for invasive ant was carried out at Rarangi and in Blenheim. This information was collated and reported in March 2013.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect properties to determine their pest status. Act on feedback from the public in relation to new pest infestations or instances of any unwanted organism or potential incursion of a harmful organism.
5.2 Undertake not less than 100 hours of surveillance for pest spread, other than Total Control pest plants, outside known sites and evaluate pest distribution and impacts. ⁽¹⁾	26.75 hours of surveillance was carried out for pest plants. Unquantifiable passive surveillance for other pest plant species was also carried out throughout the year along with the surveillance effort for invasive ants.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record pest distribution on the Marlborough District Council's GIS database. Utilise contract services to assist in the undertaking of specific surveillance for invasive ants.
5.3 If support is gained from the community, complete the planned Argentine Ant control programme and reduce levels to <10% of pre-control.	A large control effort was carried out to suppress Argentine Ants. However the goal of reducing levels to <10% pre-control was not achieved.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake community consultation for Argentine Ant control. Undertake the control of Argentine Ants with both pre and post control monitoring.
5.4 Update records, within five working days of finding or being informed of any pest plant or pest animal, while carrying out surveillance.	A report was received by the Marlborough District Council of an unusual grass growing at Dillons Point. The following day it was sent for identification which confirmed it as Tall Wheat Grass. Background research is on-going.		





Photos:


Left – Plate 6:
An Argentine Ants nest
discovered at Rarangi in
December 2012.

Top Left – Plate 7:
Contractors baiting the
Rarangi foreshore
reserve with Xstinguish
ant bait in February
2013.

Bottom Left – Plate 8:
Marlborough District
Council staff,
Department of
Conservation staff and
local residents assist in
an 'emu parade' to mop
up any ant nests found
after the initial control.

6. Ecological Threats




Objective			
Encourage community initiatives and site led management programmes. Identify sites with significant ecological value where the reduction of a range of ecological pest threats would be effective in protecting those values. Provide information material and advice on impacts, threats and control options.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Actions Taken to Meet Target
6.1 To continue to support land occupiers with pest/weed work on prioritised Significant Natural Area (SNA) sites.	<p>Through the SNA programme managed by the Marlborough District Council’s Environmental Scientist – Land Resources, pest/weed work was carried out on 14 SNA sites across Marlborough in 2012/13.</p> <p>11 of these sites were in South Marlborough where the focus was on pest weed control – particularly Old Man’s Beard, wilding pines and willows.</p> <p>The 3 remaining sites were in North Marlborough where on 2 of them, animal pests (Mustelids, Possums and rodents) were the focus.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marlborough District Council has a voluntary land owner assistance programme applying to significant natural areas sites, which includes pests/weed threat works. • The Marlborough District Council is developing an active programme to support community led pest management initiatives. • Circulate a management plan to D’Urville Island landowners and discuss control options.
6.2 To encourage community led pest management initiatives.	<p>Active support has been provided to three motivated community groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endeavour Inlet Conservation Trust – financial support to develop a wilding pine plan for the outer Queen Charlotte Sound. • Waima Ecological Restoration Society Inc. – in-kind support to develop a strategic plan including provision of GIS mapping support. • Rarangi Landcare Group – in-kind support for various components. 		

<p>6.3 To further investigate options for implementing control of wilding exotic trees on private land on D'Urville Island.</p>	<p>Financial and in-kind support was provided to the Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust to develop a comprehensive plan for wilding pine control on D'Urville Island. Support was also provided through cross-over with the SNA programme to implement control activities on selected properties on D'Urville.</p>		
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7. Educational Activities

Introduction

The Marlborough District Council recognises the advantages of a strong advisory and educational role in pest management and therefore takes a very active role in providing information and advice on the various impacts caused by pests and the best methods for controlling animal and pest plants.

Objective			
To educate the public in the identification of regional plant and animal pests and promote and encourage the most appropriate management and control options.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Actions taken to meet Target
7.1 Review and, where necessary, publish pest fact sheets for pests listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy.	No new fact sheets have been prepared due to the pending review of the Strategy. Existing publications and fact sheets have been distributed at every opportunity.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a strong advisory and educational role to create a greater understanding of land occupier pest management roles and responsibilities.
7.2 Organise and attend at least one pest specific focus group meeting and at least one pest related field day.	<p>Marlborough District Council staff attended the 'Festival' Pest Eradication Festival in Picton on 23 March 2013. Whilst attendance at the festival was not high, contact was made with a number of members of the community.</p> <p>Two well attended field-days were organised by Marlborough District Council staff to utilise the attendance of the manufacturer of Taskforce® herbicide. One focussed on the control of Chilean Needlegrass (held at Blind River), and the other focussed on Nassella Tussock (held in the Redwood Pass area).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and attend Rabbit Focus Group meetings and continue to publish Rabbit information newsletters biannually. Continue to provide input into the Ministry for Primary Industry-led Chilean Needlegrass Working Group. Liaise with the Marlborough District Council's website manager to coordinate website updates.
7.3 Continually review the overall structure and scope of information on the Marlborough District Council's website by 30 June 2013.	Website material is under constant review by staff.		

8. Biological Control Programme

Objective			
To enhance the establishment of biological control agents for a range of pest plants, with the aim of achieving an environmentally acceptable and cost effective method of control.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Actions Taken to Meet Target
8.1 Agree on annual biological control programme outcomes in conjunction with the Biological Control Collective Group by 30 March 2013.	The Marlborough District Council continued to support a National Biocontrol programme managed through the Biological Control Collective Group and implemented by Landcare Research. Work began on an assessment project of the impact of ragwort biological control agents in Marlborough to support a national assessment project		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the collective biological control programme managed by Landcare Research. Release Chilean Needlegrass Rust bio control agent if import approval is granted. Release Tradescantia Stem Beetle. Monitor the distribution of biological control agents and harvest and release biological control agents where required to enhance their distribution.
8.2 Provide biological control agents which have established in the region, to occupiers on request, for the purpose of further distribution by 30 June 2013.	Landcare Research is still working on the Chilean Needlegrass Rust and trying to get it out of South America for release in New Zealand. The biological control agents for Ragwort and Nodding Thistle have been very successful and, as a result, the Marlborough District Council has not received any requests for these agents. No other requests were nor re-distributions undertaken for existing bio-control agents.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initiatives to assess the impact on pest plants of biological control agents released in Marlborough since 2009.
8.3 Undertake at least one release of a new bio control agent by 30 June 2013.	Two releases of the Tradescantia Stem Beetle, one release of the Tradescantia Leaf Beetle and one release of the Tradescantia Tip Beetle were made.		






Photos:

Left – Plate 9: A heavily infested site of Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*) used for the release site in the Waikakaho Valley.

Right – Plate 10: A Tradescantia Leaf Beetle (*Neolema ogloblini*) after release at the Waikakaho Valley site.





9. National Pest Plant Accord


Objective			
To prevent the sale, distribution or propagation within New Zealand of any plant pest listed in the National Plant Pest Accord.			
Performance Targets	Action taken to meet Target	Reporting	Actions Taken to Meet Target
9.1 Inspect 100% of commercial retail outlets not inspected the previous year.	The number of active nurseries in Marlborough has been declining over recent years. The small number of outlets currently in operation and a record of persistent compliance over the past few years meant no commercial outlets were inspected this year.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect half of the commercial retail outlets each year on a rotational basis for any plants identified on the National Pest Plant Accord. Ensure compliance with obligations. Promote a strong advisory and educational role in association with the National Pest Plant Accord.
9.2 Respond to all complaints relating to the sale of National Pest Plant Accord listed plant species within 3 working days.	No complaints about the sale of National Pest Plant Accord plants were received.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record and report inspection results to the Ministry for Primary Industry. Ensure all inspections are carried out by a warranted officer.
9.3 As the opportunity arises, inspect casual plant outlets selling direct to the public.	No casual plant outlets were inspected.		

10. Research




Introduction

The Marlborough District Council understands the need for research in the field of pest management and provides funding for a number of research projects.

Objective			
To support research programmes which benefit pest programmes in the Marlborough district.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Actions Taken to Meet Target
10.1 Provide resource to undertake research as approved by the Marlborough District Council by 30 June 2013	A major research project was initiated to gather more information on Taskforce® herbicide as was required by ACVM in the July 2012 approval of aerial application. Support for this project was obtained from Environment Canterbury, Hawkes Bay Regional Council and Otago Regional Council. It is proposed to continue over 3 years to monitor residues in pasture, livestock, and grapevines while also monitoring efficacy against all registered target species. Establishment of trails commenced in January 2013.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake serological sampling of Rabbits in support of the national project to determine the effectiveness of RHD following the use of conventional Rabbit control techniques. • Evaluate proposals and gain approval for any expenditure. • Verify appropriate use of budget and ensure outcomes are documented and reported. • Plan and undertake research trials in a planned and cost effective manner.
10.2 Complete RHD immunity level surveys by 30 June 2013	Due to low Rabbit levels, a full RHD survey (3 sites) was not possible this year. As a result, only one site – Molesworth – was sampled in conjunction with the SFF RHD project. The required 30 Rabbit samples were collected. A financial contribution was also made in accordance with the project commitments made in 2012.		
10.3 Support the initiation of the Sustainable Farming Fund research project looking at RHD virus in New Zealand.			
10.4 Undertake a cereal pellet trial assessing the relative rabbit selectivity of RS5 cereal baits with added salt by 30 June 2013.	A RS5 cereal pellet trial was carried out in April 2013 but due to delays in confirming staff availability, the trial was pushed 3 weeks later. Unfortunately, when the trial was carried out, there was not the desired level of Rabbits present and ground conditions were not suitable (fresh grass pick). As a result, although the trial was implemented, the results obtained were not credible and were not usable for analysis.		

<p>10.5 Undertake research into the viability of Nassella Tussock seed post treatment with Taskforce herbicide by 30 June 2013.</p>	<p>To prevent Nassella Tussock from seeding, it is recommended on the label that Taskforce herbicide is applied before the end of July. Seed from Nassella Tussock sprayed with Taskforce herbicide on the 15 and 31 August was collected and sent to AgResearch for viability testing. 31% of the seed was viable from the plants sprayed on 15 August and 39% of the seed was viable from the plants sprayed on 31 August. This trial re-enforces the Australian label recommendation under New Zealand conditions</p>		
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11. Biosecurity Programmes – Other

Objective			
To facilitate partnerships with industry and the Crown in the management and coordination of national pest and unwanted organism programmes.			
Performance Targets	Reporting	Performance	Actions Taken to Meet Target
11.1 Continue, as directed by the Ministry for Primary Industry, to support the implementation of the Didymo Long Term Management Plan objectives by 30 June 2013.	This year, due to changes in the way the partnership was driven by the Ministry for Primary Industry, the Marlborough District Council directly managed the implementation of the 'Freshwater Pest Partnership Programme'. Two casual staff members were employed from November to April. They also undertook Didymo sampling of tributaries to provide further data into the national Didymo database.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Didymo Long Term Management Plan in partnership with the Department of Conservation, with support from the Ministry for Primary Industry, Fish and Game and the Tasman District Council. Attend committee and partnership meetings of the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership as well as provide financial support.
11.2 Provide on-going support in the implementation of the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Strategy.	Active participation and agreed funding was supplied to the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership throughout the year. A marine biosecurity incursion (<i>Styela clava</i>) was also managed by Marlborough District Council staff in June 2013 with support from the Ministry for Primary Industry, local stakeholders and the Top of the South Marine Biosecurity Partnership. The response to this incursion is on-going.		
11.3 Provide partnership support to the Ministry for Primary Industry in response to any new pest incursion.	No Ministry for Primary Industry-led incursions occurred that required support from Marlborough District Council staff.		



Photos:

Far Left – Plate 10: A Ministry for Primary Industry diver inspecting a Picton marina pontoon. Photo: Ministry for Primary Industries.

Left Top – Plate 11: An individual *Styela clava* attached to a marine pile. Photo: Bruce Lines – NZ Diving Services Limited.

Left Bottom – Plate 12: Some of the *Styela clava* removed on day 1 of the dive survey. Photo: Ministry for Primary Industries.

12. Monitoring and Review of the Strategy




The Strategy specifies how the effect of the Strategy is to be monitored throughout its duration. The term 'effect' covers two main areas:

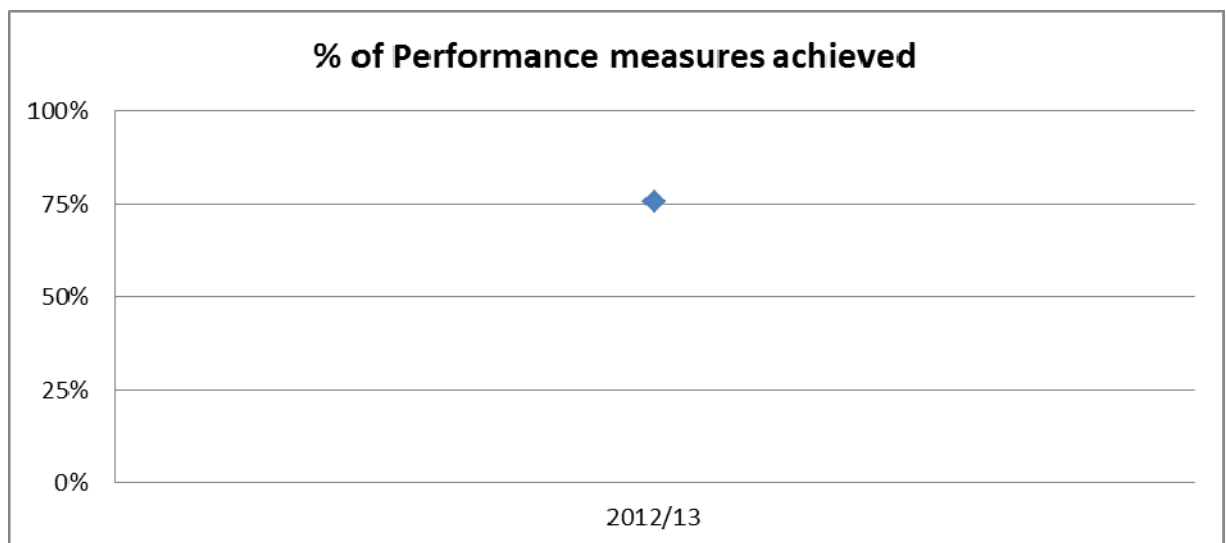
- The effectiveness of the Strategy in terms of achieving its stated objectives.
- The environmental effects of the Strategy's implementation.

Because of difficulties in measuring environmental effects, the primary method of measurement is that of outputs. The assumption stands whereby reducing the prevalence of a pest species with a documented ability to cause negative environment impacts, will have a net positive environmental effect.

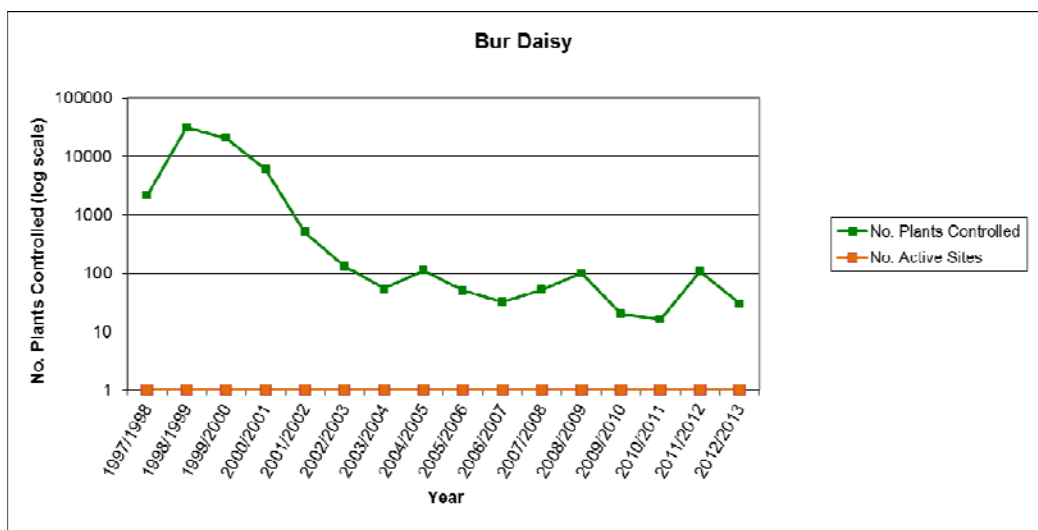
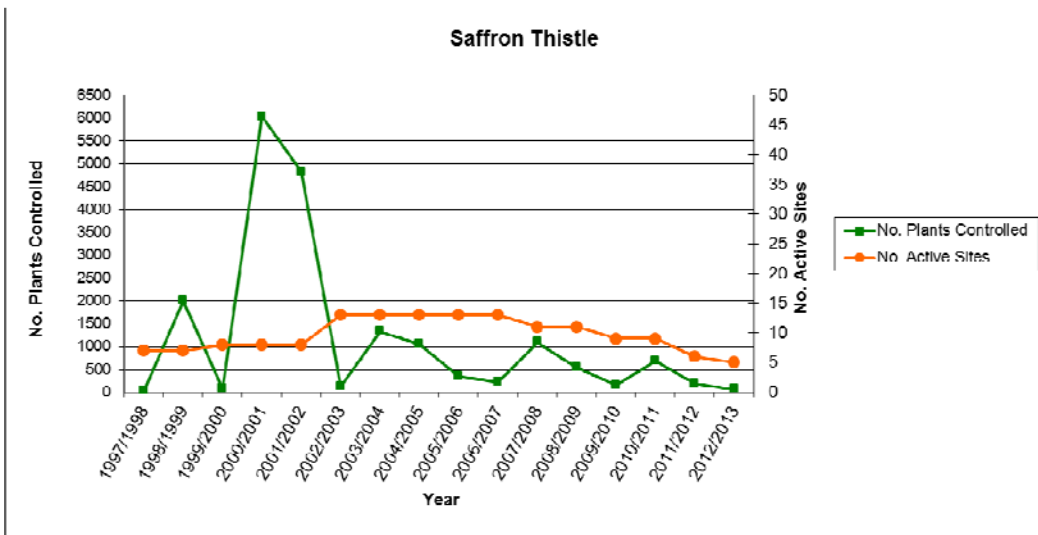
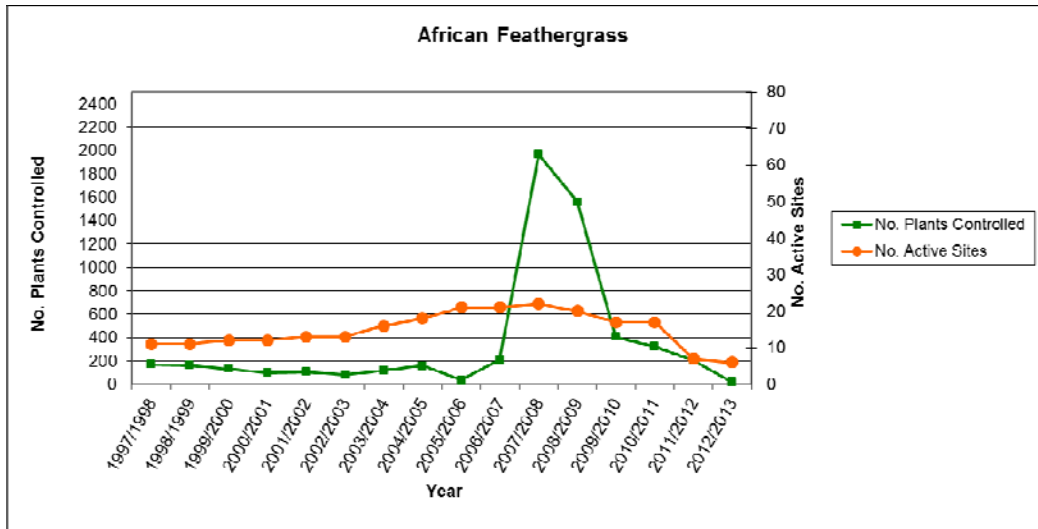
13. Performance Overview

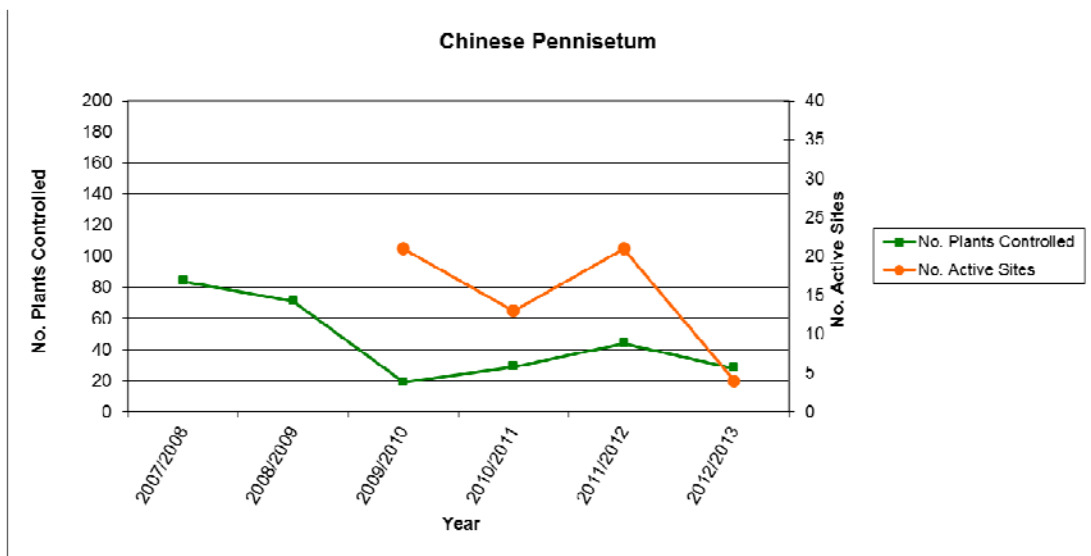
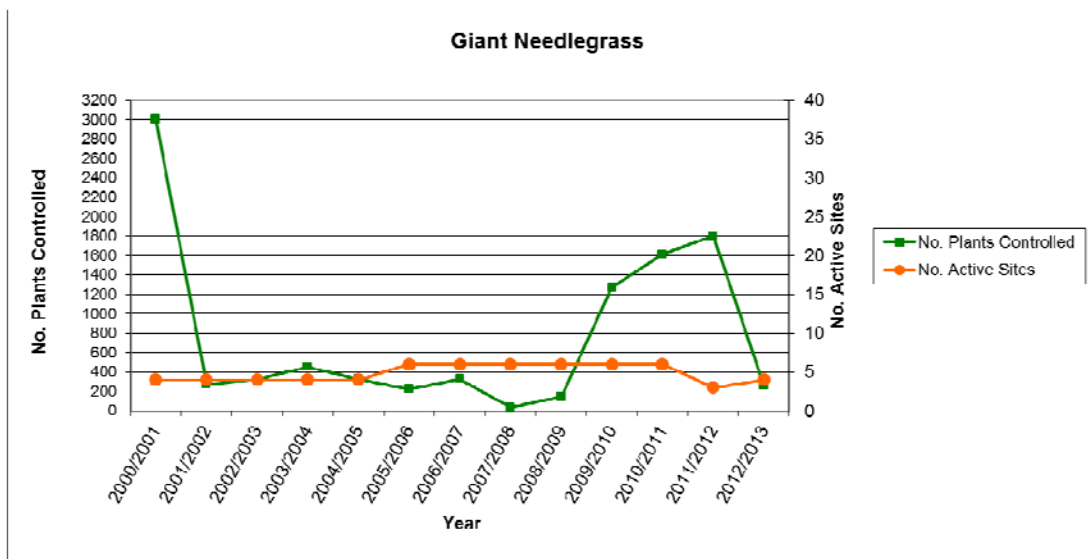
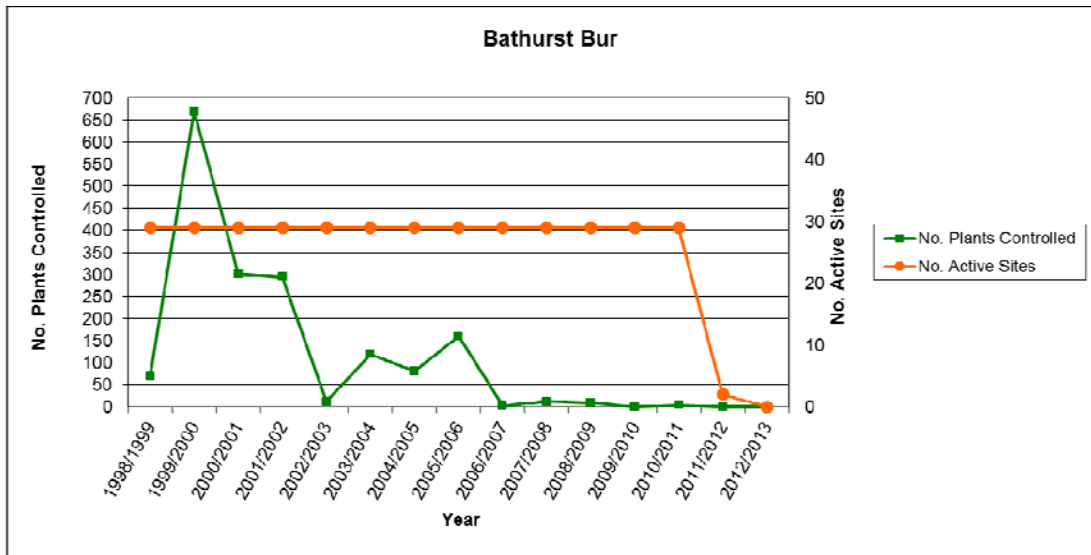
Overall scoring of Performance Objectives (excluding those that are not applicable):

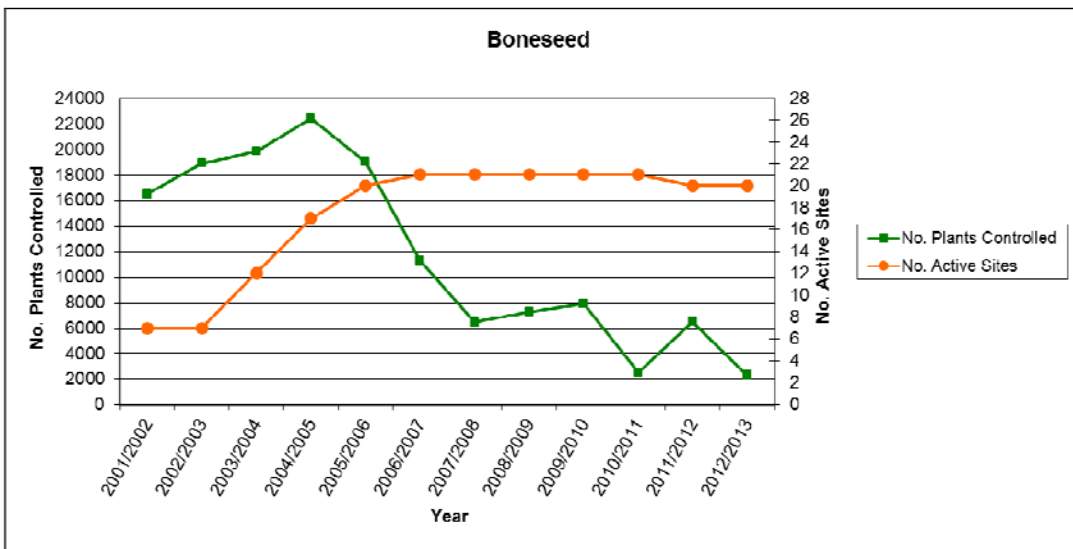
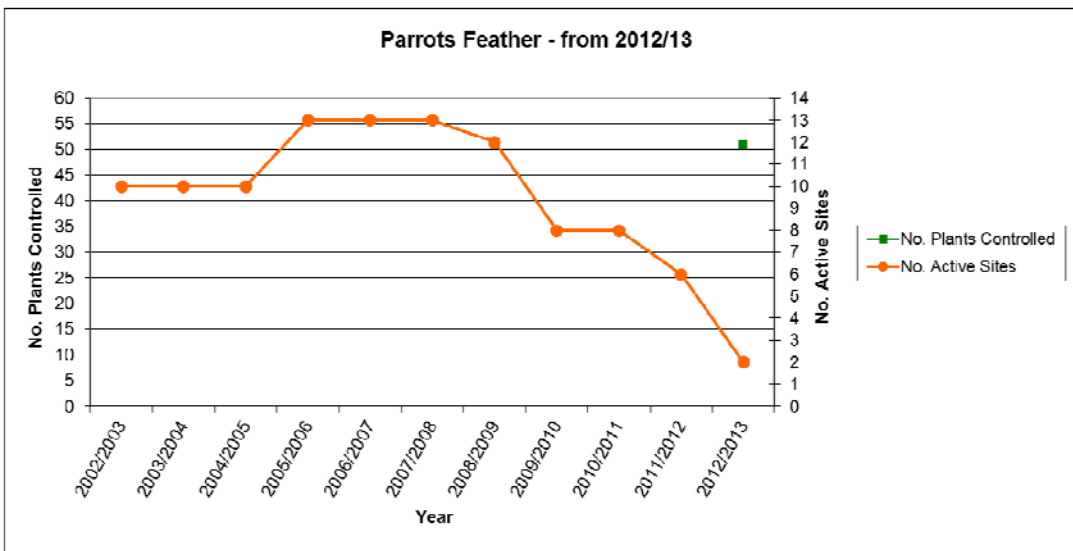
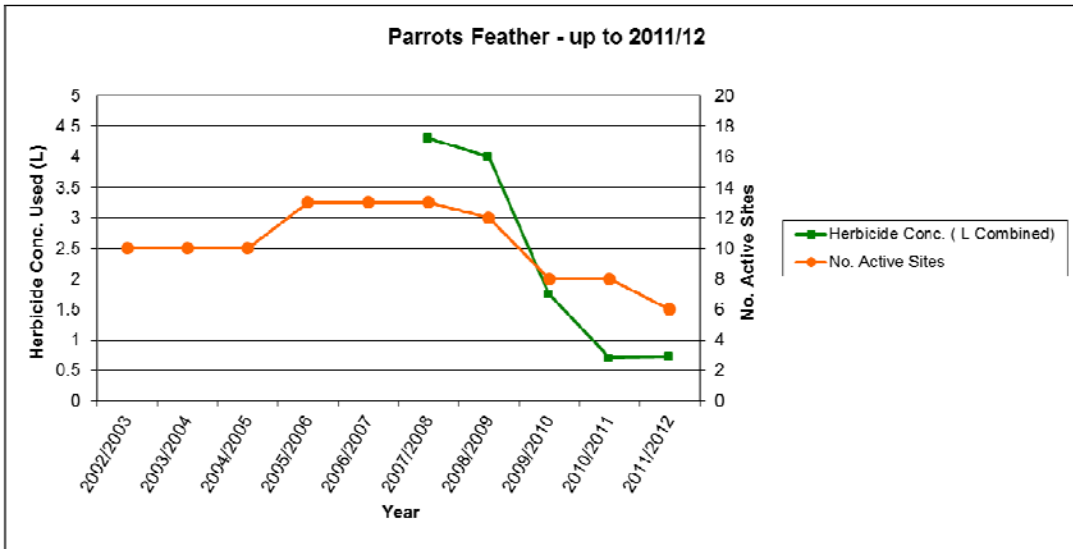
Measure	2012/13 Score
 Achieved	31 (76%)
 Almost Achieved	7 (17%)
 Not Achieved	3 (7%)
TOTAL	41 (100%)

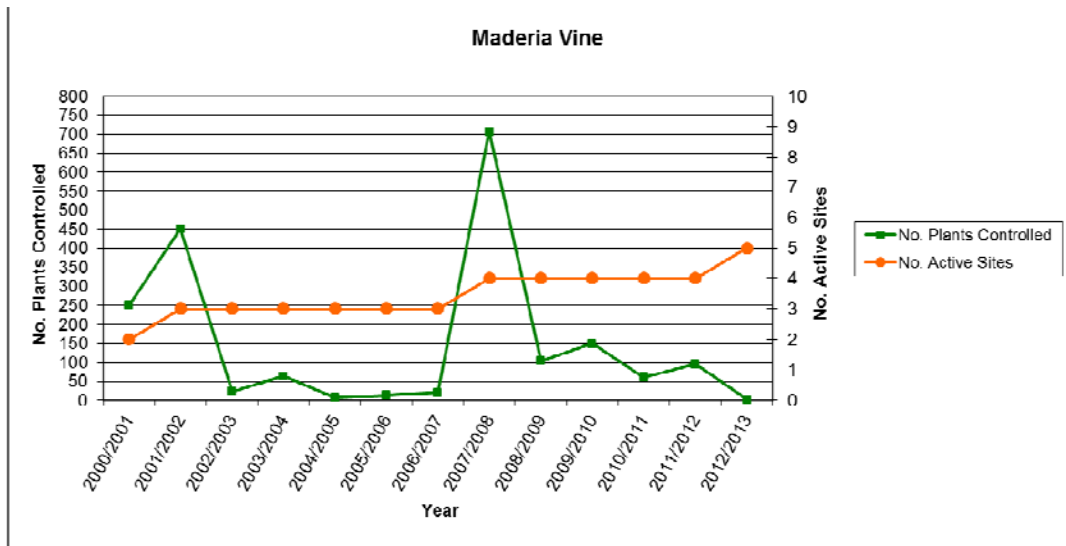
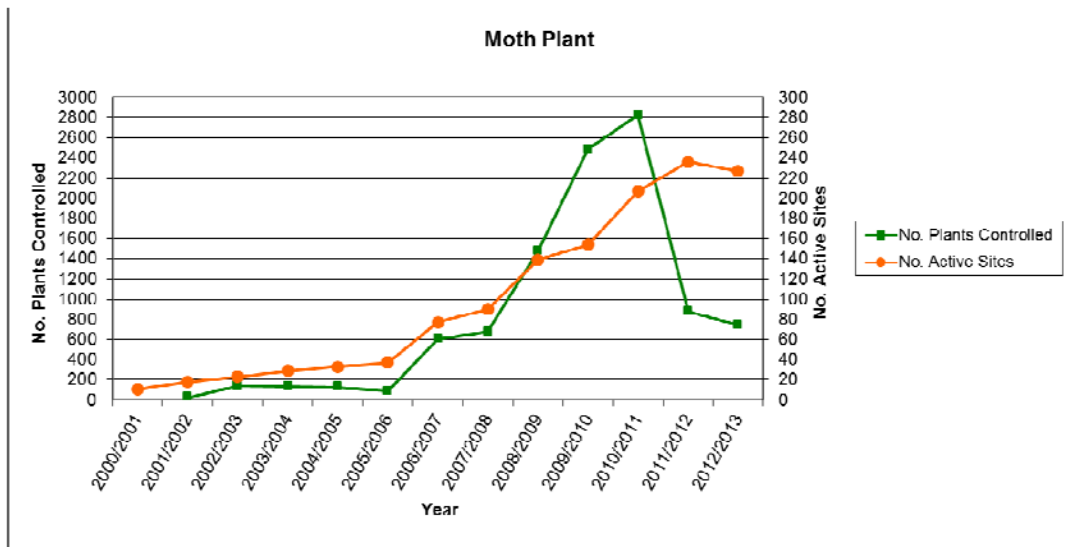
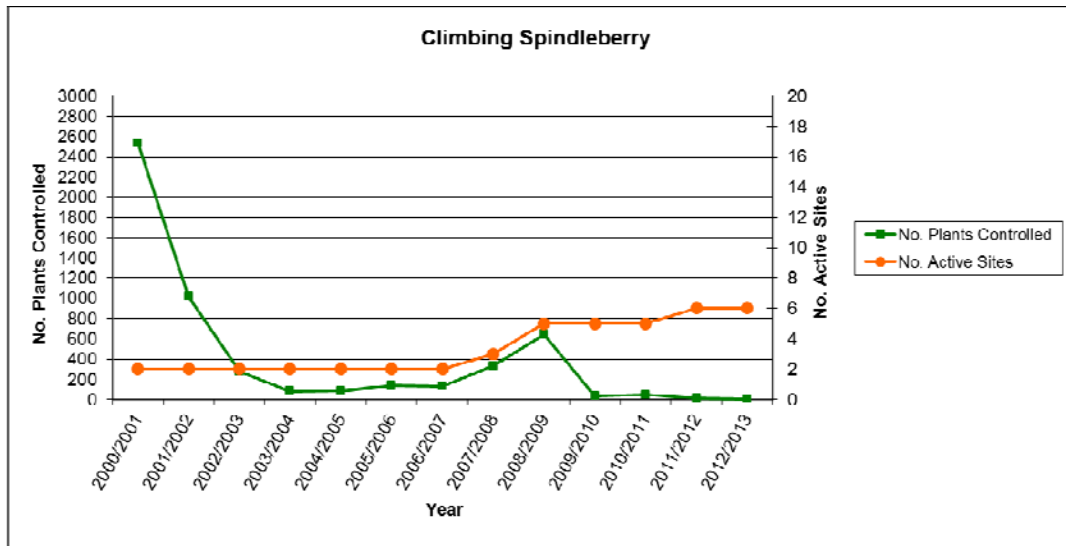


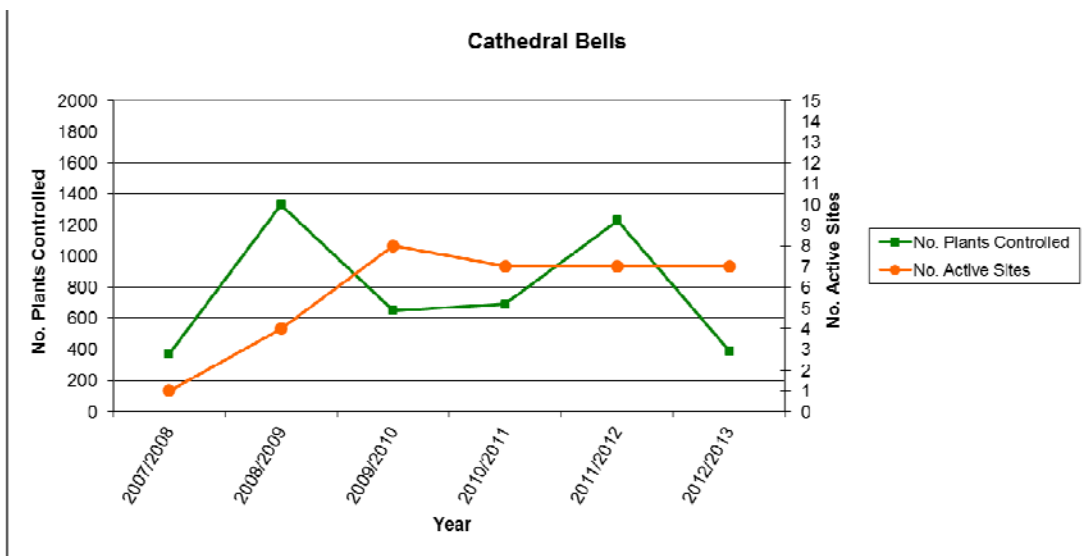
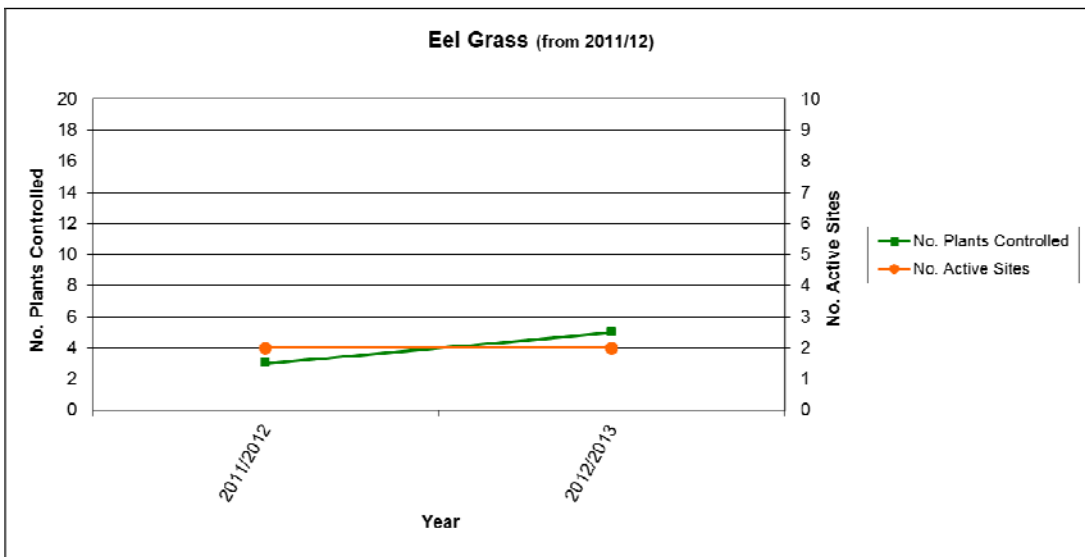
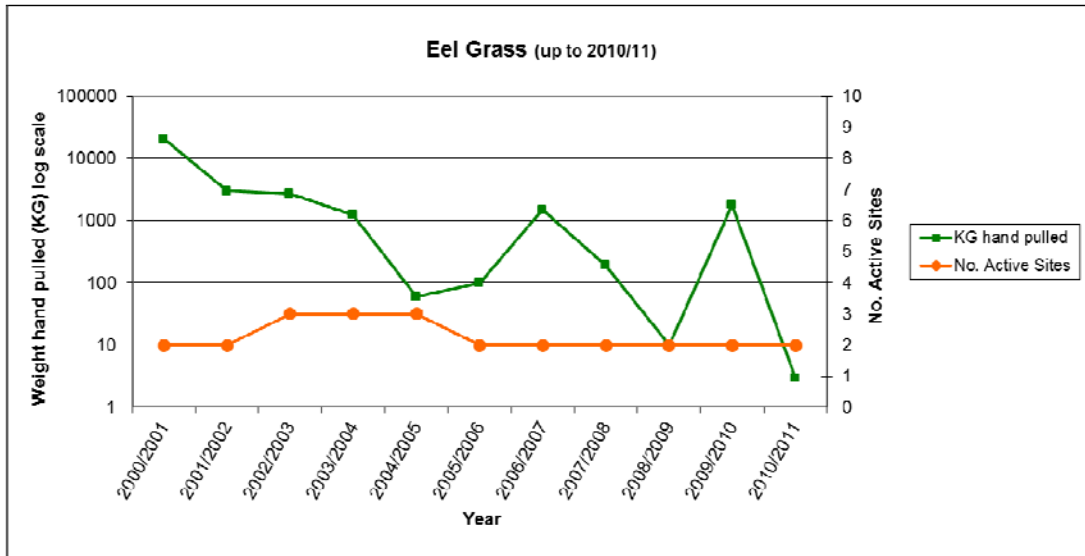
Appendix 1 – Total Control Pest Plant Data Trends

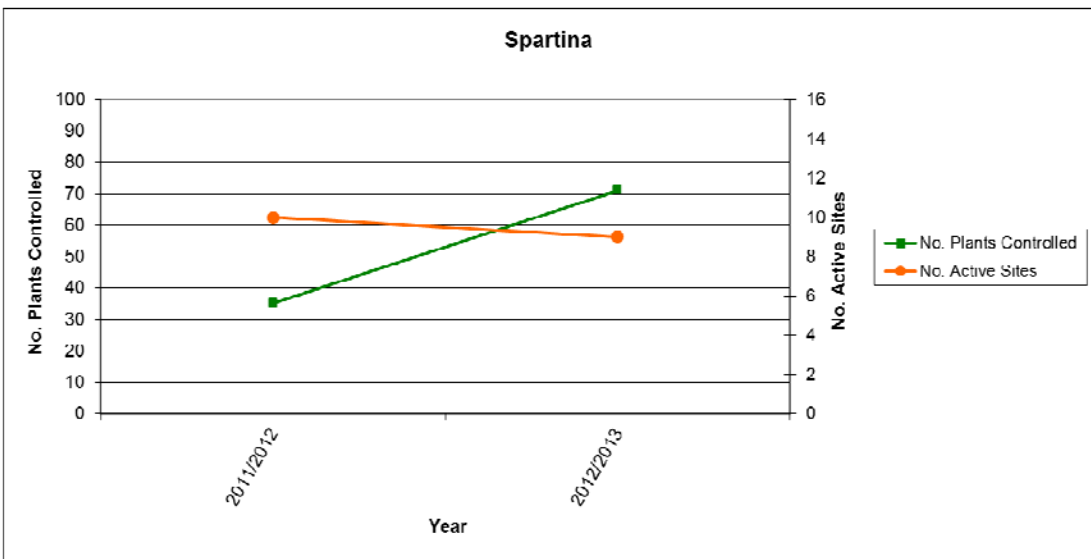
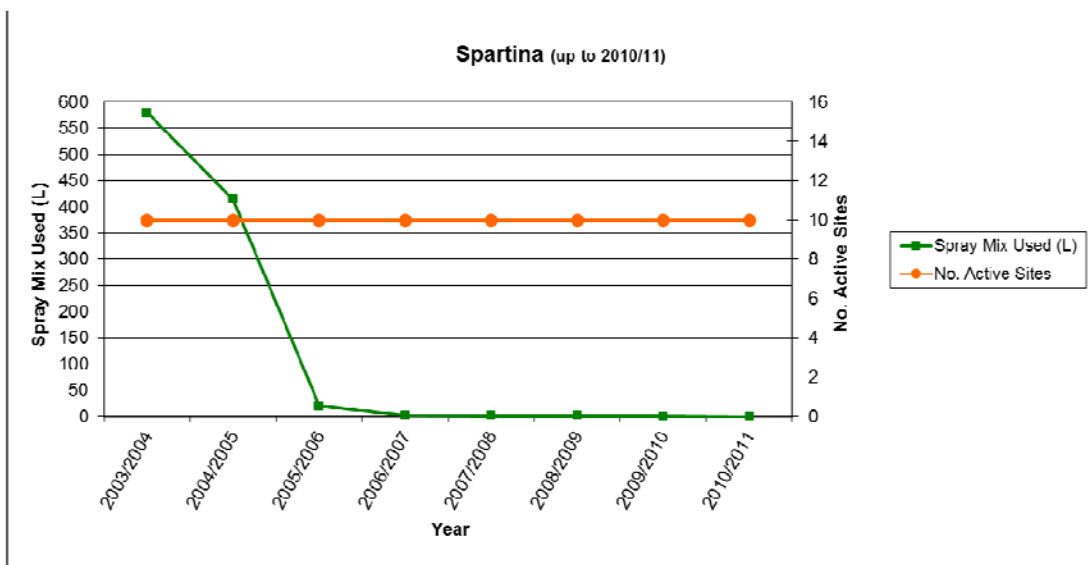
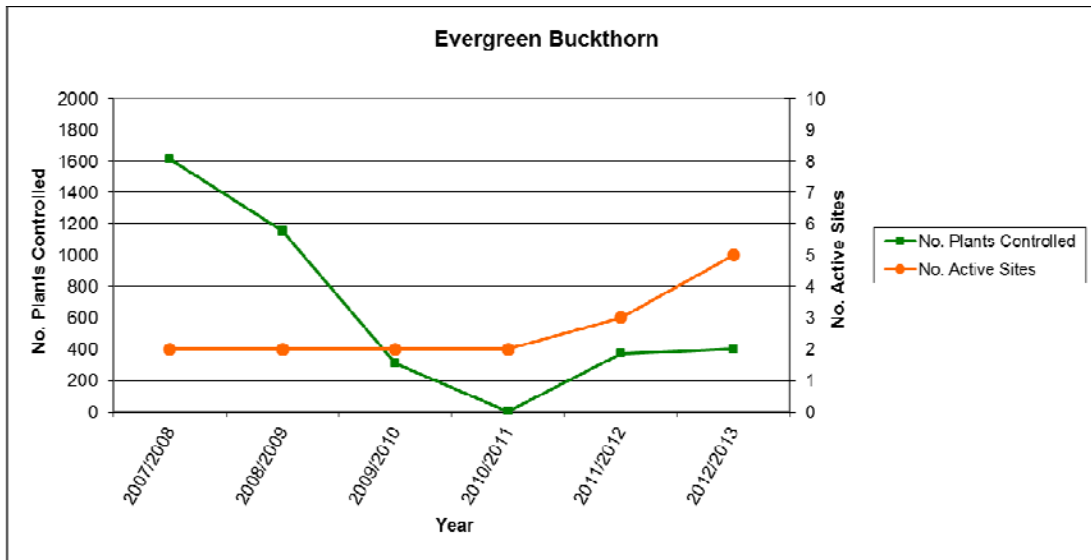


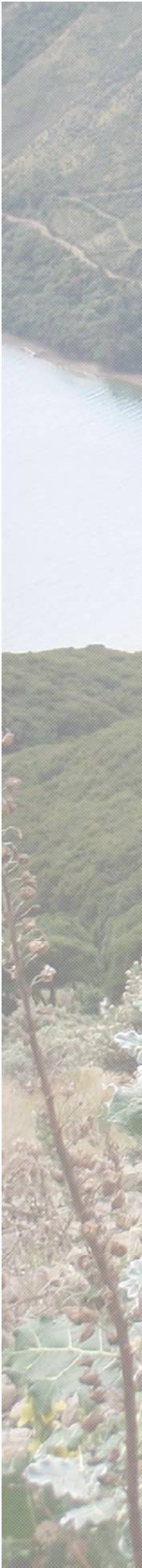












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