

Lagarosiphon (Oxygen Weed)

Lagarosiphon major

Notify Council

Although this species is not currently known to be a problem, we would like to know if you've come across it in the wild. Please report any sightings to Gisborne District Council

What's council doing about this?

We will work with land owner/occupier to eradicate the pest plant with site inspections and control work on a 3-monthly cycle.

What does it look like?

This weed is a submerged aquatic bottom-rooted oxygen weed, with slender, brittle and branched stems that can grow up to 5m tall. Leaves are dark green, curved, stiff, downward curved, crowded, and overlapping at the outward point of the top of the stem; tapered gradually towards the tip (6-20mm long). Tiny pinkish flowers (0.25mm diameter x 6mm length).

Preferred habitat is moderately fast flowing to still water bodies. Likes high levels of light, so is usually found in clear waters only to a maximum depth of 6m.

Most commonly spotted: Flowers from January to March.

Why is it a problem?

Oxygen weed is a perennial and highly invasive aquatic plant that can produce new plants from stem fragments.

These fragments can be easily dispersed within water catchment flow, contaminated boats, equipment, as well as other fishing gear.

This weed has the potential to threaten the aquatic environment because its fast growth means it displaces and shades out aquatic native plants.

Thick areas of lagarosiphon can disturb water flows and cause local deoxygenation (chemical reaction removing oxygen) of water. No seed is produced in New Zealand/Aotearoa with only female plants of this species being present.

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Please don't dump this plant from your aquarium or pond into any waterway.

Control methods

Please contact us.

Council will work on an eradication programme.

Related links

Gisborne District Regional Pest Management Plan <https://www.gdc.govt.nz/environment/reports-and-publications/pests/regional-pest-management-plan>

Ministry for Primary Industries (NPPA) <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/outdoor-activities/boating-and-watersports-tips-to-prevent-spread-of-pests/check-clean-dry/>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lagarosiphon-major/>



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Rules

This pest species is a priority for Council's Biosecurity.
For more information about this Rule, refer to our Regional Pest Management Plan page 23, under Related Links.

No person will transport or have possession of this unwanted organism into or around the East Coast/Tairāwhiti Region.

Management programme

Eradication