

African club moss

Selaginella kraussiana

Notify Council

We would like to know if you've come across any African club moss/*Selaginella* in the wild, especially on Stewart Island/Rakiura. Please report any sightings to Environment Southland.

What does it look like?

Native to South Africa, African club moss is a delicate groundcover with long, fine roots which break off easily. Slender, irregularly branched stems are rooted at small nodes. Leaves (2-4mm) are in opposite rows. African club moss tolerates both cool and hotter climates, and light to deep shade. Does however require reasonably damp to wet soils.

Why is it a problem?

African clubmoss disperses widely and quickly, forming a carpet-like mat on the forest floor and along forest margins. This has a severe impact on native plant regeneration, as it prevents seedlings from native plants from reaching the soil. This leads to less shade, as there are less understorey trees. As light gaps develop over time and there are no younger trees to replace the canopy layer, this becomes an issue as many pest plants will establish in these areas of high light.

Essentially, this delicate ground cover can have a serious impact on the overall structure of the forest. Although it is easy to remove by hand, the smallest of fragments left behind can still be enough to start a new population.



Control methods

Physical control:

- Cover with light impenetrable material (i.e. black plastic/polythene - can be cleaned and recycled) or weedmat (weighted down) for three to six months.

Herbicide control

- Spray with 100ml glyphosate (360g/L) + 20ml penetrant per 10L water.
- Spray with straight double strength bleach, ensuring a good coverage.
- Follow up will be required for all methods.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

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Related links

Ministry for Primary Industries <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/560/Selaginella>

Weedbusters <http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/selaginella-kraussiana/59/>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2668

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Selaginella-kraussiana.html>

Summary of rules

No person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any African club moss.

For full rules please see Sections 52 and 53 of the [Biosecurity Act 1993](#).

Stewart Island/Rakiura Only:

If you detect or suspect the presence on Stewart Island/Rakiura or any other island within site led area of African club moss, you must immediately report its presence and location to Environment Southland.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 26).

Management programme

National Pest Plant Accord

Site-led programme

Organisms of interest

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=192>

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=192>