

Field horsetail

Equisetum arvense

Notify Council

If you have seen or suspect the presence of Field horsetail you must report the sighting to Environment Southland immediately.

What is council doing about this?

If you suspect the presence of Field horsetail please contact Environment Southland immediately. Specialised control methods are required to manage this pest and will be carried out free of charge by a Biosecurity Officer or approved contractor.

What does it look like?

Field horsetail is an erect, colony-forming, primitive fern-ally that grows up to 80cm high and dies back in winter. The plants produce two types of stems. Fertile stems appear in spring and die back in summer. They are whitish to light-brown, unbranched, hollow and leafless. At the tip of each fertile stem there is a small, yellowish-brown cone. The infertile stems resemble miniature pine trees. All aerial parts die back in winter to a deep, branching root system with round tubers.



Why is it a problem?

Field horsetail has become an aggressive weed in parts of New Zealand. It can establish in a range of habitats and form extensive colonies which are difficult to kill., preventing native seedlings establishing. Field horsetail is not tolerant to low levels of light but has some tolerance to drought.

Field horsetail only rarely produces spores in New Zealand, but constantly resprouts from rhizomes.



Control methods

Report all sites to your regional council or local Department of Conservation office.

Physical control

- Dig out and incinerate all parts and contaminated soil.

Chemical control

- Spray (summer): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (5g/10L) or a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (25ml/10L). Add penetrant.

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

National Pest Plant Accord <http://apps.mpi.govt.nz/applications/nzpests-view/Article/1656/Field-horsetail>
Weedbusters <http://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/equisetum-arvense/59/>
New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3891
NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Weed/Equisetum-arvense.html>
Ag Pest <http://agpest.co.nz/?pesttypes=field-horsetail>

Summary of rules

No person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any Field horsetail.

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

If you detect or suspect the presence of Field horsetail within Southland you must immediately report its presence and location to Environment Southland.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 4).

You can not possess, keep, hold, enclose or otherwise harbour Field horsetail within the Southland Region.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 5).

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=194>

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=194>

Management programme

Eradication
Unwanted organism
National Pest Plant Accord