

Contorta pine

Pinus contorta

Notify Council

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

What does it look like?

Large shrub, or small to medium (occasionally large) tree, resinous, erect or spreading, with reddish brown bark (grey on surface) that is fissured and forming small plates. Branches are straight or somewhat twisted, usually on the trunk almost to ground level. It has brown hairless shoots and cylinder-shaped, purplish-brown, resinous buds. Two needle-like leaves (35-65 x 0.8-1.5 mm) per 'bundle' with each needle usually twisted and yellowish-green, with resin ducts half way along. It has cylinder-shaped male cones (5-15 mm long) and woody, long-lived female cones (30-60 x 20-35 mm) that usually point backwards or downwards on the branch and only open long after maturing to release winged seeds (1 cm long). It is monoecious (both female and male parts on the same tree).

Why is it a problem?

It can be difficult to successfully control or manage the spread of contorta pine over the long-term if the seed source is not removed or appropriately managed and contained. Trees mature at approximately five years of age, though peak seed production occurs after eight to ten years. The seed cones take 15 months to mature and can contain up to 300,000 seeds/kilogram.



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Control methods

Physical control:

- Pull or dig out small plants (all year round).
- Fell at ground level (all year round). Check for branches below ground. Stems occasionally resprout, make sure there are no green needles below the cut.

Herbicide control:

- Stump swab: metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L) or a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (50ml/L) or triclopyr 600 EC (50ml/L) or picloram gel.
- Bore and fill (all year round): 1 hole per 100mm of trunk, 2ml metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (20 g /L) per hole or 10ml a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L per hole.
- Cut and squirt (all year round): 1 cut per 150mm of trunk, 1g metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg per cut or 10ml a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L per cut.
- Frilling (all year round): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L) or a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L (50ml/L) or Triclopyr 600 EC (50ml/L) or Tordon Gold (100ml/L) or 2,4-D butyl ester (100ml/L).

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

Related links

Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust <https://www.middomewildingtreestrust.co.nz/>

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/weed-information/weed-list/contorta-pine/>

Auckland Council <http://pestplants.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plant-search/Pincor>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=3075

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Summary of rules

No person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any Contorta pine.

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

Environment Southland can direct you to control all Contorta pine on any land you own or occupy.

An owner and/or occupier within the Mid Dome Wilding Tree Programme Area (MDWTPA) (see map) are exempt until such time as the Programme Manager for the MDWTPA has removed all seeding trees from the owner and/or occupier's land.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 14).

Southland Wilding Conifer Management Area only

If you own or occupy land within the Southland Wilding Conifer Management Area (see map)

and

you have received wilding conifer control work funded by public money (such as funding from Environment Southland, the Department of Conservation or Ministry of Primary Industry)

you must destroy all wilding conifers before they mature (bare cones).

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 15).

Southland Wilding Conifer Management Area only

If you own or occupy land within the Southland Wilding Conifer Management Area (see map)

and

your neighbour has destroyed wilding conifers on their land since 14 June 2019.

and/or

your neighbour is taking reasonable measures to manage wilding conifers on their land, within 200 m of the boundary since 14 June 2019.

you must destroy all wilding conifers before they mature (bare cones) within 200 m of your adjoining property boundary

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 16).

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=52>

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=52>

Management programme

Progressive containment