

# Rough horsetail

*Equisetum hyemale*

## Notify Council

We would like to know if you've come across any rough horsetail in the wild. Please report any sightings to Environment Southland.

## What does it look like?

Erect, colony-forming, summer-green perennial, primitive fern-ally to 2m tall with extensive, deep, freely branching rhizomes. Ridged, hollow stems that occasionally branch and feel hard and rough. The stems are jointed and break easily at this point. Leaves are reduced to toothed sheaths that encircle the joints along the stems, with a black ring at the base. The stems have a distinctive black collar at the joints. Extensive underground rhizomes (underground stems). Spores produced in cone-like structures on fertile stems (rather than flowers and seed heads). Looks like a strange asparagus spear. It is sometimes kept as an ornamental plant due to its unusual appearance.

## Why is it a problem?

Rough horsetail is capable of forming pure stands in wide range of damp habitats, preventing the seedlings of native species from establishing. Blocks and alters watercourses, causing flooding.



## Control methods

### 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.

## Related links

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/rough-horsetail/>

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network [http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.aspx?ID=4114](http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=4114)

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## Summary of rules

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

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

Environment Southland can direct you to control all Rough horsetail on any non-arable land you own or occupy.

Environment Southland will have undertaken initial control prior to a direction being given.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 11).

## Management programme

Progressive containment  
National Pest Plant Accord

## Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=102>

## Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=102>