

Mexican daisy

Erigeron karvinskianus

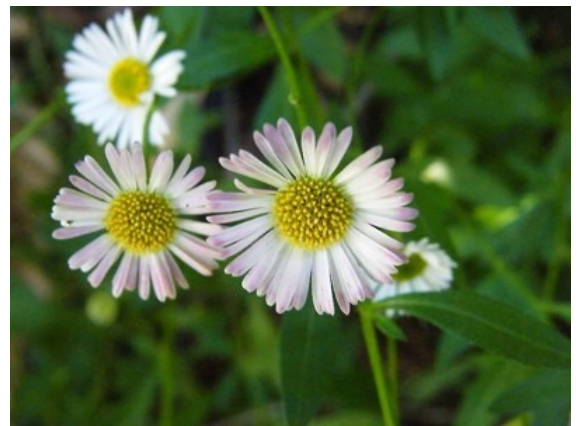
What does it look like?

Sprawling perennial daisy (<40 cm tall) with fibrous roots, and long thin stems (from 15-70 cm long) that are sparsely hairy to hairless, much-branching and root at nodes. Small, narrow leaves (upper leaves usually 3-lobed) are fragrant when crushed. White, white-purplish or pink daisy-like flowers with a central yellow disc (Jan-Dec) are followed by masses of fluffy seeds.

Forms dense mats and produces huge amounts of seed that travel for long distances. Wide ecological versatility, tolerating moderate shade to full sun, damp to drought conditions, sand to mud, almost any surface (tree and fern trunks, loose gravel, and so on), high to low temperatures.

Why is it a problem?

Mexican daisy forms dense mats in a huge range of habitats. While it isn't very long-lived itself, it opens habitats up to invasion by vines and other weeds. It replaces vulnerable herbs, shrubs, etc in key and isolated places. Seed is spread by wind and occasionally water. Seed sources include gardens, roadsides, and contaminated topsoil and potting mix. Fragments may also be spread by greenwaste dumping.



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Control Methods

Physical control

Dig out small spots: Avoid any unnecessary soil disturbance, Leave on site to rot down. plant material carefully. If seed is present, dispose of all plant material at a refuse transfer centre or burn it.

Herbicide control

Spray with clopyralid (1ml/L). Selective. Or,

Spray with glyphosate (10ml/L + penetrant in winter) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g/10L + penetrant (knapsack) or 15g/100L + penetrant (spraygun)).

Easy to kill but difficult to keep out. Can be crowded out with low, dense plants.

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/mexican-daisy/>

Rules

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

The National Pest Plant Accord is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment.