



WILD KIWIFRUIT *ACTINIDIA SPP.*

Description

Woody fast-growing vine, deciduous (losing its leaves in winter).

Leaves: Large ovate, heart shaped mid-green leaves, 120-200 mm long.

Flowers: White flowers are present in spring; female plants require cross pollination with male plants to produce fruit.

Fruit: Large fruits born in clusters beneath the canopy. Form can vary depending on the plant variety.

Origin

Native of China. Introduced to New Zealand for its fruit.

Where is it Found?

Wild kiwifruit can grow almost anywhere, in bush, pine forests, shelter belts, riparian gullies, and in old gardens. Most plants are likely to be found near existing plantations (eg, old orchards, and established garden plants).

How does it Spread?

Seed is spread by birds, especially waxeyes, eating the fruit left on the vines.



Why is it a problem?

Wild kiwifruit is a fast growing climber that forms a dense heavy blanket of vegetation that smothers and eventually kills the trees and shrubs beneath it. It is a significant threat to native bush and plantation forestry.

Status as a pest in Marlborough

Scattered infestations of wild kiwifruit are known to be present in the Marlborough region. Most of the known infestations exist at isolated sites in the Marlborough Sounds; some of these infestations are remnants of abandoned plantations, and plants originating from old garden plants.

The Marlborough District Council is currently working to determine the extent/amount of wild kiwifruit present in the Marlborough Sounds, and the likely future impacts that these wild vines are likely to have

to natural ecosystems if left unmanaged.

How can you help?

Follow best practise to minimise the spread of wild kiwifruit from orchards and home gardens.

Use bird netting to reduce bird access to fruit. Remove rejected or unpicked fruit from the vines as soon as possible, and ensure that rejected fruit is not transported into bush areas.

Report sightings of wild kiwifruit to the Marlborough District Council

If you suspect the presence or know the location of any wilding kiwifruit please contact the Marlborough District Council biosecurity section biosecurity@marlborough.govt.nz (03) 520-7400.

Controlling Wild Kiwifruit

Plants can be sprayed from November to March with Tordon Brushkiller applied at 60 ml per 10 L water using a knapsack. With handgun use 600 ml per 100 L water.

Stump treatment November - March where vine stems are easy to find. Cut vines close to the ground and apply a liberal amount of Vigilant gel to the freshly cut surface.

CAUTION: When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Marlborough District Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

