

WEED Identification & Control

Serrated Tussock



A dense tussock grass often mistaken for a native tussock. Young plants have straight, erect leaves. Mature tussocks droop. Cylindrical leaves roll smoothly between fingers.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Plough if sowing crops/pasture. Spot/boom spray.
- Spring: (Sept - Nov): Prevent seedlings by burning, slashing or chipping out. Spray in early spring.
- All year: Chip out small infestations.

Boxthorn



A spiny, woody shrub to 5m high and wide. Produces lilac to white coloured flowers with purple edging and shiny, round fruits that are green to orange/red.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Cut to ground level, then paint stump immediately or spray regrowth in spring. Burn/remove cut material.
- Spring/Summer (Sept - Dec): Spray all live foliage, inject stems or cut and paint.

Chilean Needle Grass



A perennial tussock, forming dense clumps up to 1m high. Distinguished from native spear grasses by a raised, often purple collar encircling the tail of the seed.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Spot/boom spray.
- Spring/summer (Sept - Feb): Avoid slashing. Graze to reduce seed production.
- All year: Chip out small infestations.

Gorse



A spiny shrub that can form dense thickets. Leaves are dark green, narrow and spiny. Produces bright yellow, pea-like flowers.

Control

- Winter (June - Aug): Cut to ground level and paint stump, or burn bushes then spray or graze regrowth. Plants can also be mechanically removed.
- Spring (Sept - Nov): Spray live foliage or inject stems. Begin to graze regrowth from burned plants.

Paterson's Curse



An annual weed that forms a rosette of deeply-veined leaves. Stems then reach 30 to 60cm high with purple flowers. Learn to recognise and control at rosette stage.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Spot/boom spray seedlings. Plough if sowing crops/pasture. Spray any new or missed seedlings. Chip out small infestations.
- Spring/Summer (Sept - Feb): Mark out infestations for autumn control. Chip out small infestations.

Prairie Ground Cherry



A small plant with yellow flowers and orange berries. Leaves are folded with undulating margins. Can spread rapidly via ploughing, birds and stock.

Control

- Autumn (March - May): Avoid cultivating areas containing this plant.
- Spring (Sept - Nov): Spray emerging foliage.
- Summer (Dec - Feb): Mark out infested areas to aid control. Fence off, do not graze or slash.

Artichoke Thistle



A thistle with highly divided, grey-green leaves & yellow spines. Grows 1 to 1.5m tall and produces a large purple flower. Learn to recognise at rosette stage.

Control

- Autumn (March - May): Spot/boom spray.
- Winter (June - Aug): Respray.
- Spring (Sept - Nov): Remove seedheads and destroy (burn). Respray.
- All year: Chip out small infestations.

Apple of Sodom



A spreading shrub commonly 1m in height. Leaves are deeply lobed with prickles along the veins. Produces pale purple flowers and yellow berries 2 to 3cm in diameter.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Spot spray, then heap dead matter for burning, including any fallen fruit.
- All year: Grub and plough. Plants are susceptible to regular cultivation. Avoid grazing, as plants can be toxic.

Other Thistles



Other thistles include Variegated, Spear, Scotch, Saffron and Golden Thistle. Golden Thistle (illustrated) is a multi-branched weed that forms variegated rosettes before growing 30 to 100cm tall with bright yellow flowers.

Control

- Autumn - Spring (March - Nov): Spot spray. Remove seed heads and dispose of. Cut and paint.
- All year: Plough or chip, but only if tap root is removed as it can produce new growth.

Boneseed



A many-branched shrub that is usually 1 to 3m high. Produces yellow flowers with 4 to 8 petals and leathery leaves with a prominent mid-vein.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Spray and/or cut and paint. Alternatively, burn, then spray seedling regrowth 12 months later. Good method for large infestations.
- All year: Seedlings can be pulled. Slightly larger plants may be chipped out.

Bathurst Burr



Summer growing weed with many branches. Stems are greenish yellow and 30 to 60cm high. Leaves are dark green, heavily spined and have pale veins. Burrs are small, oblong shaped and covered in tiny velcro-like spines.

Control

- Spring (Sept - Nov): Spray (large infestations) or hand pull (small infestations) seedlings. Slash before flowering and destroy burrs.
- Summer (Dec - Feb): Collect and burn plants with burrs.

Blackberry



A dense shrub that forms large thickets of stems. Each stem is dark green to red and produces prickly canes. Reproduces via seed, root suckers and daughter plants.

Control

- Spring (Sept - Nov): Spray, slash or graze intensively with livestock such as goats. Chip all year.
- Summer/Autumn (Dec - March): Spray foliage early, then respray missed foliage or regrowth in autumn.
- Winter (June - Aug): Rake/slash dead stems.

Cape Tulip



A 30 to 60cm tall weed with stiff stems and strap-like leaves. Flowers are pink, orange and rarely yellow and are produced singly or in small clusters.

Control

- Autumn/Winter (March - Aug): Spot/boom spray foliage. Chip out small infestations.
- Spring (Sept - Nov): Avoid grazing (toxic to stock) and slashing infested areas as this will disperse seeds and corms. Map infestations for winter spraying.

Cape Broom



A woody, multi-branched shrub, 1 to 3m tall with bright yellow, pea-like flowers.

Control

- Autumn - Spring (March - Nov): Burn safely, then plan spraying or grazing the following autumn. Cut and paint mature plants.
- All year: Spray or hand remove young infestations or mechanically remove. Integrate grazing into control regime.