PLANT ME INSTEAD!

SOUTHLAND

WEEDBUSTERS
Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following people and organisations who helped with production of this booklet: Ian Soper and Vic Herring (Gore District Council), Leighton Hare and Russell MacDonald (Southland District Council), Robin Pagan and Sandra Finnerty (Invercargill City Council), Chris Garden and Lynne Huggins (DOC), Environment Southland, Otatara Landcare Group, Nichols Garden Centre, Dlacks Nurseries Ltd, Southland Forest and Bird Society, and Chris and Brian Rance (Southland Community Nursery), for input, information and advice; John Barkla, Jeremy Rolfe, John Clayton, Trevor James, Peter de Lange, John Smith-Dodsworth, Krista Martin (www.meadowhawkfarm.com), John Liddle (Liddle Wonder Nurseries), Geoff Bryant, Clayson Howell, John Sawyer and others who provided photos; Sonia Frimmel (What’s the Story) for design and layout.

While all non-native alternatives have been screened against several databases to ensure they are not considered weedy, predicting future behaviour is not an exact science! The only way to be 100% sure is to use ecosourced native species.
Many of the weedy species that are invading and damaging our natural areas are ornamental plants that have ‘jumped the fence’ from gardens and gone wild. It costs councils, government departments and private landowners millions of dollars, and volunteers and community groups thousands of unpaid hours, to control these weeds every year.

This *Plant Me Instead* booklet profiles the environmental weeds of greatest concern to those in your region who work and volunteer in local parks and reserves, national parks, bush remnants, wetlands and coastal areas. Suggestions are given for locally-sold non-weedy species, both native and non-native, that can be used to replace these weeds in your garden.

We hope that this booklet gives you some ideas on what you can do in your own backyard to help protect New Zealand’s precious environment.

For more information on these weeds, including control and disposal, check out: [www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)

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**Know what’s weedy**

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Look for the kiwi – NZ’s iconic bird – it is used to mark native alternatives.
Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*)

Vigorous groundcover with small green leaves and pink to white flowers almost all year round. Seeds prolifically, and can form dense smothering mats in natural areas, crowding out native plants.

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**Plant me instead...**

**Hell’s bells** *(Anaphalioides bellidoides)*

Also consider:
- Rauhuia (*Linum monogynum*)
- *Pimelea ‘Silver Ghost’*

**Chamomile sunray** *(Rhodanthe anthemoides)*

Also consider:
- *Campanula species*
- *Primula species*
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Aluminium plant (Galeobdolon luteum)

Vigorous perennial groundcover with yellow flowers, hairy purplish stems, and leaves with silvery-white patches. Mainly spreads by fragments, and can quickly form thick, invasive, smothering mats that prevent native plants establishing.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Panakenake (Pratia angulata)

Also consider:
Mouku (Asplenium bulbiferum)
Parahebe linifolia

Dalmation bellflower (Campanula portenschlagiana)

Also consider:
Siberian bugloss (Brunnera macrophylla)

Groundcovers and fillers
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Gunnera (Gunnera tinctoria)**

Perennial with large, rough, rhubarb-like leaves up to 2 metres across on prickly stems. Cone-shaped flowerheads produce small, bird-spread seeds. Invades coastal cliffs, stream margins, wetlands, and slip faces, with the large leaves shading out native plants.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Kakaha**

*(Astelia chathamica)*

Also consider:
- Chatham Is. forget-me-not (*Myosotidium hortensia*)
- Harakeke (*Phormium tenax*)

**Chinese rhubarb**

*(Rheum palmatum)*

Also consider:
- Orange ligularia (*Ligularia dentata*)
- Hosta species
Stinking iris (Iris foetidissima)

Clump-forming perennial up to 80 centimetres tall with a thick, red-brown root system. Broad, leathery, sword-shaped, dark green leaves are foul-smelling when crushed. Stems of dull yellow flowers are followed by green, three-sided seed capsules that split open to release many round, red, bird-spread seeds. Tolerates deep shade. Crowds out native seedlings.

Turf lily (Liriope muscari)

Also consider:
Orange ligularia (Ligularia dentata)
Hosta species

Also consider:
Mikoikoi (Libertia peregrinans)
Phormium cultivars
African clubmoss (Selaginella kraussiana)

Creeping, fernlike groundcover with slender stems and tiny leaves. Produces millions of tiny spores and grows from fragments. Forms dense mats in shady areas that crowd out native seedlings and replace low-growing native plants, such as mosses and ferns.

Nertera (Nertera depressa)

Also consider:
- Panakenake (Pratia angulata)
- Piripiri (Acaena microphylla)

Speedwell (Veronica prostrata)

Also consider:
- Ajuga ‘Black Scallops’
- Campanula ‘Resholdts’
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Tradescantia  \((Tradescantia fluminensis)\)

Succulent, creeping, dark green perennial groundcover. White three-petalled triangular flowers do not produce seed, but fragments of stem take root. Forms dense mats that smother native plants and prevent native seedlings establishing. Can cause contact dermatitis in dogs.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Creeping fuchsia  \((Fuchsia procumbens)\)

Winter rose  \((Helleborus orientalis)\)

Also consider:
Panakenake  \((Pratia angulata)\)
Leptinella ‘mediana’

Also consider:
Ajuga ‘Black Scallops’

Groundcovers and fillers 6
Periwinkle \((\text{Vinca major})\)

Perennial evergreen groundcover with oval, waxy leaves and mauve-blue flowers. Stems root when they come in contact with the soil, forming very dense carpet-like mats that smother native plants and prevent native seedlings establishing.

**Plant Me Instead...**

Panakenake \((\text{Pratia angulata})\)

Also consider:
- Gunnera prorepons
- Powhihi \((\text{Calystegia tuguriorum})\)

**Ajuga 'Catlins Giant'**

Also consider:
- Ajuga 'Black Scallops'
- Campanula 'Resholds'
Onion weed (*Allium triquetrum*)

Garlic-smelling perennial with fleshy, grass-like leaves and bulbous root system. Drooping white bell-shaped flowers are found in groups of three to fifteen. Forms large, thick patches that prevent native species establishing.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Mikoikoi**

(*Libertia ixiodes*)

Also consider:

Turutu (*Dianella nigra*)

Maori onion (*Bulbinella angustifolia*)

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**Turf lily**

(*Liriope muscari*)

Also consider:

Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*)

Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus*)

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Grasses, bulbs and ferns
**Pampas** (*Cortaderia selloana & C. jubata*)

Large, perennial, clump-forming grass to 5 metres tall with large, fluffy, upright flowers and narrow, sharp-edged leaves. Flowers of *Cortaderia selloana* are white, while those of *Cortaderia jubata* have a purple tinge. Invades natural areas, suppressing native plants, harbouring animal pests, and creating a fire risk.

**Toetoe** (*Cortaderia richardii*)

Also consider: Snow tussock (*Chionochloa flavescens*)

**Harakeke** (*Phormium tenax*)

Also consider: Red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*)
Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora*)

Evergreen or summer-green clump-forming perennial with bright green, sword-shaped leaves. Orange-red flowers are followed by seed capsules, and it also spreads by underground corms. Invades natural areas, crowding out native species, and the masses of spreading corms in the soil can contribute to erosion, siltation, and the breakdown of stream banks.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

Rengarenga (*Arthropodium cirratum*)

Also consider:
- Turutu (*Dianella nigra*)
- Wharariki (*Phormium cookianum*)

Hemerocallis 'Amber glow'

Also consider:
- Crown Imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*)
- Winter rose (*Helleborus orientalis*)
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Bomarea (Bomarea caldasii & B. multiflora)

Multi-stemmed vine that twines around any available support. Stems arise from short, underground rhizomes with numerous tubers. Flowers are clumped in dense, pendulous bunches of 15-20, and are reddish on the outside and yellow with red spots on the inside. They are followed by capsules that split open to reveal fleshy, bright orange seeds. Forms large masses that smother supporting vegetation and prevent native seedlings establishing.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Puawananga (Clematis paniculata)

Also consider:
Yellow clematis (Clematis foetida)
Clematis marata

Yellow jessamine (Gelsemium sempervirens)

Also consider:
Chilean bellflower (Lapageria rosea)
Trumpet creeper (Campsis radicans)
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

**Greater bindweed (Calystegia silvatica)**

Robust, sprawling, climbing perennial to 4 metres with large triangular or arrow-shaped leaves, and large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers. Stems usually die down in winter, but an extensive underground rhizome system makes this weed difficult to control. Invades and smothers native species in natural areas.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Pohuehue (Muehlenbeckia complexa)**

Also consider:
Powhiwhi (Calystegia tuguriorum)
Rauparaha (Calystegia soldanella)

**Morning glory (Convolvulus cneorum)**

Also consider:
Lady Banks Rose (Rosa banksiae)
Old man’s beard (*Clematis vitalba*)

Perennial, woody, deciduous climber with five leaflets (compared to the native clematis that has three leaflets). Small white flowers from December to March are followed by silky balls of seed. Serious threat to native bush, overtopping it and forming a thick blanket that kills native plants and trees.

**Plant me instead...**

**Yellow clematis** (*Clematis foetida*)

Also consider:
- Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)
- Native jasmine (*Parsonsia capsularis*)

**Evergreen clematis** (*Clematis armandii*)

Also consider:
- *Clematis spooneri*
- Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)

Climbers and vines
**Common ivy (Hedera helix)**

Vigorous, evergreen, creeping vine that can climb to 30 metres. Inconspicuous flowers are followed by fleshy black bird-spread fruit. Stems or fragments touching the ground can also take root. Completely carpets the forest floor, and can climb to the tops of trees, clinging with small aerial roots. Smothers native species and prevents native seedlings establishing.

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**White rata (Metrosideros perforata)**

Also consider:
- Scarlet rata (Metrosideros fulgens)
- White rata (Metrosideros diffusa)

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**Climbing hydrangea (Hydrangea petiolaris)**

Also consider:
- Yellow jessamine (Gelsemium sempervirens)
**Jasmine** (*Jasminum polyanthum*)

Vigorous evergreen climber growing to 10 metres. Clusters of highly scented, pinkish-white flowers are sometimes followed by black, bird-spread berries. Mainly spreads by taking root where it touches the ground, forming a dense groundcover as well as smothering vegetation up to mid-canopy level. Capable of seriously damaging native forest. Yellow jasmine (*Jasminum humile*) is also weedy.

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**Small white clematis** (*Clematis forsteri*)

Also consider:
- Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)
- Native jasmine (*Parsonsia capsularis*)

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**Star jasmine** (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

Also consider:
- *Lonicera ‘Winchester’*
- Honeysuckle (*Lonicera splendida*)
Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)

Poisonous, scrambling perennial herb with woody stems and small drooping purple flowers, followed by bright scarlet, bird-spread berries. Invades damp, shady areas, smothering native species.

Also consider:
- Puawananga (*Clematis paniculata*)
- Puataua (*Clematis forsteri*)
- Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)
- Yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)

Native jasmine (*Parsonsia capsularis*)

Also consider:
- Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)
- Yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)

Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)

Also consider:
- Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)
- Yellow jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)
Chilean flame creeper (*Tropaeolum speciosum*)

Vigorous perennial vine with slender stems and blue-green, five-fingered leaves that die off over winter. Scarlet flowers are followed by blue, bird-spread berries. Root fragments can also form new plants. Invades natural areas, climbing high into tree canopies.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Scarlet rata** *(Metrosideros fulgens)*

Also consider:
- Native jasmine (*Parsonia capularis*)
- Puwananga (*Clematis paniculata*)

**Chilean bellflower** *(Lapageria rosea)*

Also consider:
- Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*)
- Trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*)
Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Deciduous tree growing to 20 metres tall with smooth grey bark and distinctive wind-spread ‘helicopter’ seeds. Seedlings are shade tolerant, allowing it to invade and ultimately take over bush areas that would be resistant to invasion by other weed species. Long lived, and forms dense stands that crowd out native species.

**Plant Me Instead...**

**Tawhai**

(*Nothofagus menziesii*)

Also consider:
- Makomako (*Aristotelia serrata*)
- Totara (*Podocarpus totara*)

**Liquidamber**

(*Liquidamber styraciflua*)

Also consider:
- Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipera*)
- *Acer ‘Crimson King’*
**Darwin’s barberry (Berberis darwinii)**

Spiny, evergreen, yellow-wooded shrub growing to 5 metres tall. Deep orange-yellow flowers are followed by purplish-black berries that are spread long distances by birds. Invades natural areas, forming dense colonies that replace existing vegetation and prevent the establishment of native plants.

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**Corokia (Corokia cotoneaster)**

Also consider:
- Karamu (Coprosma lucida)
- Common tree daisy (Olearia arborescens)

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**Snowball tree (Viburnum opulus ‘sterile’)**

Also consider:
- Abelia grandiflora ‘Snow Shower’
- Styrax officinalis
Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)

Deciduous small to medium tree with an open crown, distinctive fine drooping branches, and silver-white bark on stems that thickens and splits into narrow vertical furrows. Drooping cylindrical seed heads are made up of wind-spread seed. Forms a dense canopy in wetland areas, altering the growing conditions for low growing native species.

Manatu (*Plagianthus regius*)

Also consider:
- Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*)
- Weeping mapou (*Myrsine divaricata*)

Gingko (*Gingko biloba*)

Also consider:
- Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)
- Lime tree (*Tilea x europaea*)
Buddleia (**Buddleia davidii**)

Deciduous or semi-evergreen, many-stemmed shrub growing to 4 metres tall. Dull green, lance-shaped leaves are often hairy. Spikes of fragrant blue to purple flowers are followed by numerous wind-spread seeds. Forms dense colonies, and is an invader of exotic forestry and natural areas.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

Koromiko (**Hebe salicifolia**)  
Also consider:  
Mountain holly (**Olearia ilicifolia**)  
Corokia (**Corokia cotoneaster**)  

Lilac bush (**Syringa vulgaris**)  
Also consider:  
Silk tassel bush (**Garrya elliptica**)  
Sagewood (**Buddleia salvifolia**)
Cotoneaster (Cotoneaster franchetii)

Spreading evergreen shrub growing to 4 metres tall, with blue-green leaves and bunches of glossy, bright red, bird-spread berries. Younger leaves have downy white undersides. Invades natural areas and forms dense stands that crowd out native species.

Karamu (Coprosma lucida)

Also consider:
Corokia (Corokia cotoneaster)
Pseudopanax species

Japanese rose (Rosa rugosa)

Also consider:
Photinia ‘Red Robin’
Correa varieties
GARDEN ESCAPEE

Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)

Thorny deciduous shrub or small tree growing to 10 metres tall. White flowers are followed by red bird-spread berries. Widely planted in the past as a hedgerow. Forms dense thickets, blocking access and invading naturally open ecosystems, such as frost flats, and replacing native species along bush margins and in other natural areas.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

Totara (Podocarpus totara)

Also consider:
Manatu (Plagianthus regius)
Horoeka (Pseudopanax crassifolius)

Crab apple (Malus floribunda)

Also consider:
Burkwood viburnum (Viburnum x burkwoodii)

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Shrubs and trees
Green daphne (**Daphne laureola**)

Evergreen shrub to 1 metre tall with very tough, fibrous bark, pale green flowers, and black, bird-spread fruit. Often grows wild in shady places and has potential to invade bush understorey, crowding out native species.

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**Titirangi**
*Hebe speciosa*

Also consider:
Mountain holly (*Olearia ilicifolia*)
Grey’s groundsel (*Brachyglottis greyii*)

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**Daphne odora**
‘Leucanthe’

Also consider:
*Daphne bholua*
**Spanish heath (Erica lusitanica)**

Erect, brittle, woody perennial up to 2 metres tall, densely covered in small, needle-like leaves. Masses of small, snowy-white flowers in winter are followed by very small, light, wind-spread seeds in smooth capsules. Prefers poor acid soils in low fertility areas, such as weak pasture and open disturbed habitat. Grows from near sea level to 1000 metres, crowding out native species.

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**Plant Me Instead...**

**Pimelea species**

Also consider:
- Makomako (Aristotelia serrata)
- Totara (Podocarpus totara)

**Erica × darleyensis  ‘Jack H. Brummage’**

Also consider:
- Bauera ‘Plum Duff’
- Grevillea ‘Bronze Rambler’
GARDEN ESCAPEE

**European spindle tree** (*Euonymous europaeus*)

Much branched deciduous tree growing to 6 metres tall, with stems that are square when young, and leaves that turn red in autumn. Small greenish-yellow flowers are followed by deep pink, four-lobed capsules that open to expose an orange fruit around bird-spread seed. Invades natural areas, crowding out native species.

PLANT ME INSTEAD...

**Kohuhu** (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*)

Also consider:
- Papauma (*Griselinia littoralis*)
- Mahoe (*Melicytus lanceolatus*)

**Camellia sasanqua** ‘Yuletide’

Also consider:
- Deutzia (*Deutzia gracilis*)

Shrubs and trees 26
**Garden Escapee**

**Tutsan (Hypericum androsaemum)**

Poisonous, rapidly growing, medium to tall shrub with semi-woody stems and soft green leaves. Bright yellow flowers are followed by fleshy, red, bird-spread berries that ripen to black. Crowds out native species in bush understorey.

**Plant Me Instead...**

**Chatham Is. forget-me-not (Myosotidium hortensia)**

Also consider: Hebe cultivars

**Burkwood viburnum (Viburnum x burkwoodii)**

Also consider: Hypericum leschenaultii Vanhoutte spirea (Spirea x vanhouttei)
**GARDEN ESCAPEE**

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)

Evergreen shrub or small tree to 12m tall with glossy, dark green leaves with deeply serrated edges, and red, bird-spread berries on female plants. Shade tolerant, and invades disturbed forest where it out-competes native tree and shrub species.

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**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Orihou** (*Pseudopanax colensoi*)

Also consider:
- Mountain holly (*Olearia ilicifolia*)
- Mahoe (*Melicytus lanceolatus*)

---

**Camellia sasanqua** ‘Yuletide’

Also consider:
- Taique (*Desfontainia spinosa*)

www.digihub.com

Department of Conservation

Shrubs and trees
Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*)

Deciduous tree growing to 6 metres tall with smelly oval leaves. Masses of small white flowers in dense clusters are followed by shiny, black, bird-spread berries. Invades natural areas, forming moderately dense stands that crowd out native species.

**PLANT ME INSTEAD...**

**Mahoe** (*Melicytus lanceolatus*)

Also consider:
- Makomako (*Aristotelia serrata*)
- Totara (*Podocarpus totara*)

**Snowball tree** (*Viburnum opulus ‘sterile’*)

Also consider:
- Red-berried elder (*Sambucus racemosus*)
- Ulmo (*Eucryphia cordifolia*)
Rowan (Sorbus aucuparia)

Deciduous tree growing to 8 metres tall with spreading branches and eight pairs of leaflets on each leaf. Clusters of small white flowers appear with new leaves, followed by bright orange, bird-spread berries. Will grow in deep shade, invading beech forest and crowding out native species.

Kowhai (Sophora microphylla)

Also consider:
- Putaputaweta (Carpodetus serratus)
- Manatu (Plagianthus regius)

Sugar maple (Acer saccharum)

Also consider:
- Liquidambar (Liquidambar styraciflua)
- Chinese mountain ash (Sorbus hupehensis)
Hornwort  (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Submerged freshwater plant with finely divided leaves with toothed edges making them rough to the touch. New plants form from each piece of brittle stem. Rapidly invades still and flowing waters, crowding out native species, and blocking irrigation and drainage channels and hydroelectric dams.

Lagarosiphon  (*Lagarosiphon major*)

Submerged bottom-rooting perennial. The leaves, arranged spirally around stem, are curved backwards or downwards. Produces tiny pinkish flowers. Rapidly forms dense mats that shade out native species, and block irrigation and drainage channels and hydroelectric dams.

Parrot’s feather  (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)

Perennial freshwater plant with distinctive, feathery, blue-green leaves in whorls of five to six, each divided into 20-30 leaflets. Takes root at the bottom of waterways and forms dense sprawling mats that clog channels.
### Ground covers and fillers

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<td>Aluminium plant</td>
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### Climbers and vines

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### Shrubs and trees

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<td>Elderberry</td>
<td><em>Sambucus nigra</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowan</td>
<td><em>Sorbus aucuparia</em></td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Aquatic weeds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aquatic weed</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hornwort</td>
<td><em>Ceratophyllum demersum</em></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagarosiphon</td>
<td><em>Lagarosiphon major</em></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrot’s feather</td>
<td><em>Myriophyllum aquaticum</em></td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>