

Identifying weeds

Common weeds in Southland

There are some common weeds found growing along waterways in Southland. Find out what they look like and see our tips for control.

Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)

Vine with arrow-shaped leaves. Clusters of purple flowers that produce red berries in summer. Smothers shrubs and small trees.

- Control it: Spray with glyphosate (Roundup). Follow-up control may be required.

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)

Scrambling, thorny shrub. White to pink flowers, followed by clusters of black berries. Scrambles over the ground and smothers low plants.

- Control it: For small patches, cut and paste stumps with herbicides. For large areas, spray (summer-autumn, before leaves become brittle): metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (7.5g/15L) or Tordon Brushkiller (60ml/15L) or triclopyr 600 EC (60ml/15L).

Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Shrub with slender arching branches. Covered in bright yellow flowers in spring and summer. Seeds in legume pods. Forms dense thickets that shade out other species.

- Control it: Cut stems and immediately apply herbicide paste to the stumps. Or, spray with a suitable herbicide for brush-weed species.

Darwin's barberry (*Berberis darwinii*)

Shrub with small shiny prickly leaves. Bright orange flowers in October and purple berries in late spring and summer. Forms dense thickets that prevent other plants from growing.

- Control it: For smaller shrubs, cut and paste the stems. For larger trees, drill 10mm holes sloping downwards at regular intervals around the base of the tree. Pour 25mm of neat glyphosate (Roundup) into each hole. The tree will die standing.



Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*)

Shrub or small tree with clusters of white umbrella-like flowers and purple/black berries in late summer. Can form dense stands that exclude other plants.

- Control it: Pull out seedlings by hand. For shrubs, cut and paste stems. For larger trees drill 10mm holes sloping downwards at regular intervals around the base of the tree. Pour 25mm of neat glyphosate (Roundup) into each hole.

Gorse (*Ulex europeaus*)

Fast growing woody shrub with sharp spiny leaves. Bright yellow flowers, followed by hairy seed pods. Forms dense thickets that prevent other plants from growing.

- Control it: Cut stems and immediately apply herbicide paste to the stumps. Or, spray with herbicide that's registered to be used on brush-weed species such as gorse.

Reed sweet grass (*Glyceria maxima*)

Aggressive, perennial, mat-forming grass to 1.9 m tall. Forms dense mats on water and in damp areas, replacing most other species. Causes silt accumulation and flooding.

- Control it: Weed wipe (spring-autumn): glyphosate (200ml/L + penetrant).
- Spray (spring to autumn) with glyphosate (10ml/L+ penetrant) or use Gallant NF (5ml/L + 5ml crop oil).

Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*)

Evergreen shrub with needle-like leaves. Bell-shaped white flowers followed by hairless seed capsules. Forms dense thickets that prevent other plants from growing.

- Control it: Weed wipe active spring growth with 2,4-D ester (500ml/L), or spray active spring growth with 2,4-D ester (50ml/10L).

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)

Deciduous tree that grows up to 10m tall. Produces brown seeds with papery 'wings' that help them fly in the wind. Forms dense thickets that shade out other species.

- Control it: Pull out seedlings by hand. For saplings or small trees, cut and paste stems. For larger trees, drill into the wood stem with 10mm wide holes sloping downward at regular intervals around the base of the tree. Pour 25mm of neat glyphosate (Roundup) into each hole. The tree will die standing.

Willow species

Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*)

Deciduous tree to 25m, occasionally only shrub size, with spreading rather than hanging branches, and rough, fissured bark. Will out-compete riparian plantings.

Grey willow (*Salix cinerea*)

Deciduous shrub or small tree to 7m, often 1-2m, spreading or thicket-forming. Will out-compete riparian plantings.

- Control willow: Begin control at top of catchment, treat every stem. The following are options for control.
 1. Cut and squirt (summer-autumn): Make 1 cut every 100mm around the trunk and squirt undiluted glyphosate (10ml) or 2,4-D ester (20ml) into each cut.
 2. Cut stump application: apply herbicide gel. Remove all plant material from site as all cut stems can root where they fall.
 3. Drill and fill (summer-autumn): Make 1 hole every 100mm around the trunk and pour undiluted glyphosate (10ml) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2ml of 20g/L) or undiluted 2,4-D ester (20ml) into each hole.
 4. Spray (full leaf stage only): glyphosate (12.5ml/L + penetrant, total coverage needed) or metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg (35g/100L from January to April before leaf fall begins).

