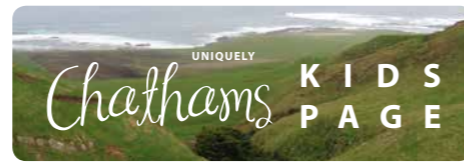


Looking after our environment Word Find



H R P T Q I N S E C T S P U T G S C B Z
 C F H E J G O R S E N I Z N K J Y C F F
 U K S G S U L Q F A R M E R S G A L S O
 T H R E A T E N I N G M G J Q O W O U O
 E S E E G E S C F A N R P D B Y H Q N X
 T A T I B A H B I O S E C U R I T Y I V
 L D G P E W B L R S S L S Z Y F A H Q O
 D R S O I L S I E C V K F B E M P Y U G
 B O B N G K V V B S E S A E S I D G E F
 J S F N U N I Z G R I S K S U F M K R S
 V F L A E T Q G A I M P O R T B A Y D E
 T R E Q A M Y D L R L X V R T X N N X I
 B R O N I G I R A F V D S A W I A E D C
 G F O E I C B L A V I V R U S C G R L E
 G X I P A S I V S M A H T A H C E J Y P
 W U H T S H L O S S F F I L U S M Y C S
 W O I Q P N E A X E S O N E N D E M I C
 R O X K O D A J N E O O Z K B E N U V N
 N L O M Q J T R G D Y R V L L E T W D T
 K E D H S D T K T S S V H V M W Y K A J

See if you can find all these words:

BIOSECURITY	INSECTS	THREATENING	GEESE
HABITAT	SPECIES	ERADICATION	PESTS
SEEDS	ENDEMIC	NATIVES	WEEDS
CHATHAMS	ISLANDS	TRANSPORT	GORSE
IMPORT	SURVIVAL	FARMERS	RISKS
SOILS	ENVIRONMENT	PATHWAYS	
DISEASES	MANAGEMENT	UNIQUE	



Issue 27 November 2015



IMPORTING PLANTS TO THE CHATHAMS?

What you need to know ...

The Chatham Islands environment is unique and beautiful and the economy is highly dependent on farming and fishing. The Chatham Islands are free of many pests and diseases which cause economic and environmental problems on mainland New Zealand.

The importance of biosecurity

Living in a unique environment like the Chatham Islands brings many challenges and rewards. The Chatham Islands have a Pest Management Strategy to help protect the unique environment and economy from unwanted pests and diseases.

Plants used for gardens shelterbelts and woodlots have the potential to bring unwanted diseases or become pests themselves.

Pest plants

Over 75% of New Zealand's weeds were originally introduced as garden plants. These introductions now cost farmers, growers and foresters millions of dollars every year in herbicides and lost production. They can also threaten the long-term survival of some native animals by changing or destroying habitats.

Many common garden plants could potentially become weeds on the Chatham Islands and it is not always easy to know what species could pose a risk.

Please contact Kerri Moir or Robin Seymour, the Chatham Islands Biosecurity Officers, if you are unsure about a plants pest status. Alternatively a list of potential weeds can be viewed in the Chatham Islands Pest Management Strategy available on Chatham Islands Council website www.cic.govt.co.nz



E15/5117



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A sustainable future for our
people and our islands.

Plants carrying unwanted pests and diseases

It is difficult to manage pest insects and plant diseases once they arrive, so it's important for us to take care to prevent them establishing in the first place. Many plants (both native and exotic) in other parts of New Zealand carry unwanted diseases and insects or harbour pests in the growing media (soil, bark, potting mix).



Other plant risks to consider

Of the 320 indigenous plants on the Chathams at least 29 species are found nowhere else in the world.

Even species which are native to other areas of New Zealand have the potential to become weeds or interbreed with endemic Chatham Islands species. When possible choose locally grown native plants.



What can you do?

One of the best ways to reduce the risk of transporting plant pests to the Chathams is to purchase from a credible commercial nursery. Should you choose to get a plant from another source such as a garden, please choose only healthy specimens which are free from disease and insect attack.

If in any doubt about the pest status or health of any plants please contact a Chatham Islands Biosecurity Officer.



Check the soil

The soil around your plant may also carry unwanted insects and organisms.

The best way to avoid soil contamination is to purchase from a credible commercial nursery rather than source your plants through private contacts. Should it be advantageous to dig up a plant from its natural environment please choose only healthy specimens which are free from disease or insect attack and ensure they are treated and or shipped bare rooted.

For further information about importing plants, please contact the Chatham Islands Biosecurity Officer Kerri Moir, on 03 305 0013 or email kerri.moir@ecan.govt.nz

Plant sightings wanted

The Chatham Islands Biosecurity Officers welcome any queries about odd plants reported by locals. We believe we are in control of the following plant pests and will respond immediately to any further sightings. Just phone the office at 305 0013 or email kerri.moir@ecan.govt.nz.

- » Gunnera
- » Banana Passionfruit
- » Glyseria Maxima (water way weed)
- » Old Man's Beard
- » Broom
- » Tree lupin

Geese control



In early 2014, Canada Geese were put on the Chatham Islands Council's control list, and, at the time it was thought that there were less than 40 birds resident. To date, Biosecurity staff have shot 150.

Given that these birds have been difficult to locate (and that the original estimate was a bit out) there may be more left and eradication is still the objective.

Marine pests update

In mid-2015, NIWA was approached and asked to come up with a list of the top 10 marine pests that should be looked for.

The list comprised of five marine pests known to be present in mainland New Zealand waters but not known if they are present in the Chathams. The remaining five are at the top of NIWA's watch list that are not known to be present in New Zealand waters.

A process is currently being worked through where two Environment Canterbury staff and three local divers can carry out surveys of the four port areas on Chatham Island.

Gorse Free initiatives

In early October 2015, Mt Hutt Helicopters arrived to commence the fourth year of this project. At the time of going to print, they have finished the Council/Environment Canterbury work. Due to a helicopter breakdown last November they never made it to Pitt Island but this was completed this year. Biosecurity Officers Kerri and Robin believe that all gorse that can be sprayed from the air has now been done on Pitt. This leaves some ground control to mop up the last visible plants.

Once the helicopter crew gets back to their base, the entire "Gorse Free/controlled" area to date will be mapped and publicly displayed at the Council office.

Assurance is needed that all the work done to date will not be wasted by lack of maintenance. This has started a shift to working some areas where any control will be enhanced by landowner input. This should be a primary focus moving forward if there is on-going funding for this project while also being aware of the land that has been controlled to date.

The fourth annual chemical contestable fund has also just been completed. This takes the total spent to \$118,000.



The results of the gorse control initiative are obvious on this hillside.

The Chatham Islands economy

- » Agriculture is an important activity on the Chatham Islands worth ca \$5M pa (cf \$21M for fishing)
- » Opportunities for the farming sector to draw increased benefit from farming in a relatively pest-free environment, compared to mainland New Zealand
- » Preventing unwanted organisms arriving to the islands is preferable to having to undertake expensive eradication and/or long term pest management programmes

UNIQUELY
Chathams

The Chatham Islands: A community that protects, sustains, enriches and values our environment, our cultural heritage and our uniqueness.