



Pest Management

The Chatham Islands is a beautiful part of the world and it is important that pests do not endanger our islands' unique flora and fauna.

Environment

Canterbury is contracted to deliver biosecurity services on the Chatham Islands. Pest management is carried out in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 and national and regional pest management strategies.

Pests are most likely to arrive in vehicles, small boats, timber and machinery, especially agricultural and construction equipment — and with imported livestock, plants and general freight. Even commercial foods, fertilisers, grains and potting mix can contain pests.

We have prepared several fact sheets relating to pest management on the Chatham Islands, i.e. what to do if you are importing animals, plants or vehicles to the islands. You'll find these factsheets at the end of this page

Chatham Islands Pest Management Strategy

The two main goals of the Chatham Islands Pest Management Strategy [PDF, 10 MB] are:

Surveillance and control of pests already on the Chatham Islands

Border control to prevent new pest incursions

The Strategy is due for review in 2018.

Chatham Islands Biosecurity: A Snapshot 2011-2017

We co-produced Chatham Islands Biosecurity: A Snapshot 2011-2017 [PDF, 6.9 MB] with Environment Canterbury to raise awareness of the key pests that threaten our islands' unique natural values.

The book provides a good summary of biosecurity activities on the islands over the last seven years and details our extensive joint work programme with Environment Canterbury.

It is a valuable resource for landowners, farmers and fishermen, enabling them to identify pest plants and animals and improve practices to help stop the spread of pests and protect our unique environment.

Chatham Islands Biosecurity: A Snapshot 2011-2017 will go a long way in informing the next version of the Chatham Islands Pest Management Strategy.

'No Pests Please'

No Pests Please is a border control programme for the Chatham Islands, developed in conjunction with [SPS Biosecurity](#) .

It was developed in recognition of the fact that a variety of pests have already arrived on the Chatham Islands and caused significant damage, both to the islands' ecology and economy.

It is essential that pests currently on the Chatham Islands such as possums, rats and hedgehog don't spread to Pitt Island and other outer islands.

The impact on agriculture, the marine industry and the environment would be disastrous.

If you have seen a pest and are unsure what to do please [contact us](#).



What you can do

Everyone travelling to or from the Chatham Islands is responsible for ensuring they do not bring pests with them.

You must:

thoroughly clean vehicles, camping gear, freight containers and machinery before arriving in the Chathams
make sure luggage and camping gear, etc. is free of stowaway pests; even boots, socks and clothing can carry unwanted seeds

do not bring plants onto the island without checking with the Chatham Islands Council whether they are pests
check supplies and equipment for signs of pests before travelling to the Chatham Islands

if you suspect that pests are being moved about or have established themselves, contact us

if possible, destroy or contain the pests immediately and then [contact us](#)

if you are moving within the Chatham Islands or travelling out of an area with a known pest problem, make sure vehicles, equipment and other material are clean.

Chilean Needle Grass

Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) is an invasive pest weed that poses a major threat to primary production and the biodiversity of dry grasslands.

Once established, CNG is very difficult to eliminate. It is avoided by stock and develops a lasting seed bank. The seeds are a sharp, corkscrew shape, which catch on animal hides, clothing and machinery.

CNG seeds can hitchhike on agricultural equipment, machinery, stock, feed, motorbikes and vehicles including recreational 4WDs. Vehicles and machinery are often sourced from the Hawke's Bay which is an area with quite a large distribution of CNG. Therefore, we all need to be vigilant as we don't want to see this pest become established on the Chatham Islands. Try to minimise the movement of stock to reduce the likelihood of contamination and spread of any seeds.

Please keep an eye out for CNG on your property, around stock/sale yards or on roadsides.



If you suspect that you have found it, please do not try to pull it out. Instead, take a photo and send it to Kerri.Moir@ecan.govt.nz with details of the location or call 03 305 0013 for assistance. If you think you have seen it, report it!

For more information about CNG, including tips on how to identify this grass, please visit the Facebook page, [Chilean Needle Grass - stopping its spread in NZ](#)

Also, see Environment Canterbury's [FAQs on Farm biosecurity and machinery hygiene \[PDF, 299 KB\]](#), and [Chilean needle grass \[PDF, 298 KB\]](#).

Marine pests

Marine pests are most likely to arrive on boat hulls, in ballast water or in water intake systems such as sea chests.

They can also arrive as a result of fishing and harvesting activities or with marine equipment.

Marine pests include:

Asian clam and Asian date mussel

Chinese mitten and European shore crabs

Mediterranean fan worm

North Pacific sea star

caulerpa (a green seaweed)

undaria/Wakame (a Japanese seaweed).

For more information on what you can do to help prevent the spread, go to our [Marine Pests](#) page.

Biosecurity factsheets

Moving to the Chathams

[Download PDF \(469 KB\)](#)

Bringing Pets to the Chathams

[Download PDF \(448 KB\)](#)

Buying Used Vehicles or Machinery

[Download PDF \(520 KB\)](#)

Importing Plants

[Download PDF \(465 KB\)](#)



Importing Farm Animals

[Download PDF \(459 KB\)](#)

Importing Bulk Building and Gardening Supplies

[Download PDF \(1.4 MB\)](#)

Pest Brochure

[Download PDF \(446 KB\)](#)

Biosecurity Brochure

[Download PDF \(63 KB\)](#)

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