

5.29 Spartina (*Spartina anglica*)

Why is it a threat?

Spartina is a sward forming grass that originates from the United Kingdom. It grows from underground rhizomes. The rhizomes break off and establish elsewhere. It will also spread via seed. It grows in estuaries and displaces native plants and animals of salt marshes and mud flats. It can cause accelerated sedimentation in estuaries. It can also impede river water flows.

Up until the mid-2000's, extensive spartina infestations were centred in the Pelrous and Kaituna estuaries. Numerous scattered infestations were also spread across the heads of many bays and inlets in the Marlborough Sounds. A joint programme between the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Council began in 2004 with the aerial spraying of the main infestations. Since then, all infestations have been intensively managed to very low levels. Technical assessments by DOC have concluded that eradication is feasible.



5.29.1 Objective

By the end of the term of this RPMP, spartina (*Spartina anglica*) on all known sites in the Marlborough district will have been controlled to zero density to prevent adverse effects on the environment and enjoyment of the natural environment.

Intermediate Outcome:

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|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Exclusion | Eradication | Progressive Containment | Sustained Control | Site-led |
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Principle measures to achieve the objective

1) Council Inspection and Service Delivery

Inspection by Council may include staff or contractors:

- a) Delivering a service in conjunction with the Department of Conservation to control spartina in liaison with the occupier (if applicable).
- b) Visiting properties or doing surveys to determine whether pests are present.
- c) Monitoring effectiveness of control.
- d) Carry out control using administrative powers of the Biosecurity Act 1993, if necessary.

2) Requirement to Act

Land owners and/or occupiers or other persons may be required to act where rules or statutory obligations dictate:

- a) The presence of pests is to be reported.
- b) Pests are not to be spread (propagated, sold or distributed).

3) Advocacy and Education

Council may:

- a) Provide general purpose education, advice, awareness and publicity activities to land owners and/or occupiers and the public about pests and pathways (and control of them).

- b) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers to control pests.
- c) Promote industry requirements and best practice to contractors and land owners and/or occupiers.
- d) Encourage land owners and/or occupiers and other persons to report any pests they find.
- e) Facilitate or commission research.

5.29.2 Rules

Rule 5.29.2.1

Occupiers are required to notify Council of any new infestation of spartina (*Spartina anglica*) on land they occupy within 5 working days of the initial observation.

A breach of this rule will create an offence under section 154N(19) of the Biosecurity Act.

Note: Current distribution data is able to be viewed online via Council's Smart Maps service.

Explanation of the rule:

The purpose of this rule is in accordance with section 73(5)(a) to assist Council with surveillance. Requiring occupiers to notify Council of new sites and plants on their properties, in addition to Council's own surveillance, will assist Council in achieving the objective of the programme. New infestations will be able to be controlled and incorporated into the programme.

Notifying the Council of the presence of the specified pest will enable the Council to:

- Update its records.
- Map new sites of this pest.
- Carry out control work before they spread.
- Determine whether new control regimes should be considered.
- Provide advice and information to occupiers where appropriate.

Council as the management agency will administer the rule.