

Weed Alert!

Bur Daisy (*Calotis lappulacea*)

Bur daisy is a total control plant pest in the Marlborough District Council's Regional Pest Management Strategy. Land occupiers that suspect they have bur daisy on their property should notify the Marlborough District Council. Council will carry out control of bur daisy before plants produce seed, with the aim of eventual eradication of this plant from the region.



A potential problem

Bur daisy is a small daisy with bright yellow flowers that develop into hard sharp burs. These burs pose a serious threat to the Marlborough and New Zealand wool industry through the contamination of sheep fleeces.

It originates from Australia and probably entered New Zealand attached to the wool of imported sheep.

It will replace desirable pasture species if left uncontrolled.

At present there is only one known site of bur daisy in Marlborough occupying an estimated area of 260 hectares. It is found in scattered sites in Canterbury and Otago and has the potential to establish throughout the dry pastoral country of the South Island.



It prefers to grow on marginal country where competition is limited, but it will grow on fertile country if allowed to spread.

Bur daisy produces many seeds that are quickly spread through stock movement. Seed will remain viable in the soil for many years.

What to look for

- A small perennial herb with thin green leaves and bright yellow flowers. It flowers for most of the growing season so burs are present on the plant almost all year round.
- It can grow up to 40cm high and 1metre in diameter.
- The burs are hard and dry and are covered in tiny hooks which readily cling to human clothing and animal hair or wool.

Control Methods

Individual plants can be grubbed, but this will work up the soil and encourage the germination of new seedlings.

Spot spraying with Tordon Gold or another similar herbicide is the most effective means of controlling bur daisy.

Regular follow up is essential to control new seedlings.

Care must be taken to prevent further spread of seed through stock and machinery movements.



Contact us

The Marlborough District Council requires your help in locating sites of this plant. If you suspect you have bur daisy on your property or have seen it growing anywhere, please inform the Council.



Seymour Square, Blenheim
PO Box 443, Blenheim
Phone (03) 578 5249