

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Farmers forest and landowners** can:

- Be careful when selecting which tree species to plant, and where – check with your regional council before planting any conifer species.
- Remove wilding pine seedlings and saplings that have established outside planted areas, before they develop cones.
- Work with neighbours to control wilding pines that have spread across property boundaries.

**Hunters, hikers and other outdoor users** can pull out small wilding pine seedlings or cut small trees close to the ground. These trees can be left on site to break down naturally.

**Businesses** you can sponsor community projects and help spread the word – ask us for copies of this brochure to distribute or download a printable copy.

**Anyone** can join (or start) a community group helping to control wilding pines ([www.wildingpines.nz/get-involved/join-a-community-group](http://www.wildingpines.nz/get-involved/join-a-community-group)), or spread the word on social media – check out the videos and images you can use from the [wildingpines.nz](http://www.wildingpines.nz) website.

## DID YOU KNOW WILDING PINES...

- Are difficult and expensive to get rid of once they become established.
- Can cause loss of unique landscapes, rare plant species and valuable pastoral land.
- Increase the intensity of wildfires.
- Impact our water catchments by soaking up ground water.
- If left unchecked, would cover more than a quarter of New Zealand within 30 years.

## FIND OUT MORE

To find out what is happening in your area, contact your regional council biosecurity team. It takes all of us to protect what we've got.



**PREVENT  
THE SPREAD**  
CONTROLLING WILDING PINES



**PROTECTING  
AOTEAROA**

FROM  
**WILDING  
PINES**



➔ [WILDINGPINES.NZ](http://WILDINGPINES.NZ)



**PREVENT  
THE SPREAD**  
National Wilding Conifer Control Programme



## WHAT ARE WILDING PINES?

**Wilding conifers (also called wilding pines) refers to species of fir, larch and pine trees that have self-seeded and are growing where they are not supposed to be.**

Wilding pines pose a big threat to New Zealand's unique environment. Unlike well-managed plantation forests, wilding infestations don't allow for native undergrowth, are not managed for fire risk, and are rarely a usable resource.

## WHICH SPECIES ARE A PROBLEM?

Ten introduced species are responsible for most wilding pines. The most invasive species, the Lodgepole (contorta) pine, is an unwanted organism in Aotearoa New Zealand meaning they cannot be bred, propagated, planted, distributed or sold.

You can find a wilding pine ID guide on our website:

[www.wildingpines.nz/media-guide/image-gallery/species-gallery](http://www.wildingpines.nz/media-guide/image-gallery/species-gallery)

## WHY ARE THEY A PROBLEM?

Wilding pines overwhelm our native landscapes, killing native plants and forcing out native animals. They grow very densely – taking the sun, water and nutrients other plants need. When compared to native New Zealand bush – where a wide variety of species exist together – wilding pines largely support only other wilding pines.

Unless we collectively work to prevent the exponential spread of wilding pines, we will lose over 90,000 hectares of valuable land each year. This could have an economic cost of \$4.6 billion, due to the negative impact on primary production, biodiversity, hydroelectric power generation and ground water.

## WHERE CAN THEY BE FOUND?

Exotic conifers, including pines, were introduced to Aotearoa New Zealand about a century ago, for use as timber, shelter and erosion control. Since then, they've spread far and wide across the North and South Islands (see map). Areas vulnerable to invasion include native tussock grasslands and native bush, mountains, pastoral farmland and areas with low-growing native plant communities such as geothermal and coastal sites. These locations include some of our most iconic landscapes like Mt Tongariro, the Coromandel, the Mackenzie Basin, the Remarkables and the Kai Iwi Lakes in Northland.

## WHAT'S BEING DONE?

The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme led by Biosecurity New Zealand has brought New Zealanders together to tackle this significant national problem, including central and local government, mana whenua, researchers, industry and private landowners. Community groups and volunteer activities also play a big part in controlling wilding pines.

So far, the Programme and its partners have carried out control work on infestations across 2.2 million hectares of New Zealand.

## NATIONAL WILDING CONIFER CONTROL PROGRAMME

