

SPREAD THE WORD NOT THE WEED

THERE'S VELVETLEAF ON MY FARM

Velvetleaf (*Abutilon theopasti*) is one of the world's worst cropping weeds, damaging arable crops by competing for nutrients, space and water. Waikato Regional Council treats this plant very seriously, but we can't stop its spread without your help.

- Waikato Regional Council contractors and staff must have access to the site for the purposes of surveying, monitoring or controlling velvetleaf.
- No infested products – such as soil, crops, livestock, silage, manures – are to leave the property.
- Any change of ownership of the property must be reported to Waikato Regional Council at the earliest possible date.

HOW TO REMOVE VELVETLEAF



IF SEED HEADS HAVE NOT FORMED

- Hand pull plants.
- Spraying is an option where small seedlings are abundant.



IF SEED HEADS ARE PRESENT ON THE PLANT

- Carefully place a large bag over the seed capsules and flowers.
- Tie the bag tightly around the stem.
- Bend the stem in half.
- Pull out the plant and place in another bag.



IF SEED HEADS HAVE BLACKENED

- Place drop sheet on the ground, tightly against the stem to catch any falling seed.
- Carefully place a large bag over the seed capsules and secure tightly around the stem.
- Pull out the plant and place in another bag.
- Pick up and bag any seeds which have fallen onto the drop sheet.
- Check soil for fallen seed or seed capsules. If seed has dropped, consider soil removal into a bag.



DOUBLE BAG AND STORE SECURELY AWAY FROM ANIMALS AND MACHINERY.

Contact Waikato Regional Council for further advice about disposal. Do not bury bags of velvetleaf on farm.

waikatoregion.govt.nz/velvetleaf
0800 800 401

HOW TO STOP THE SPREAD

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW

Velvetleaf has been confirmed on your farm. Here are some actions for you to help stop its spread.

I have infested maize silage

Under the Biosecurity Act, you cannot knowingly move velvetleaf-infested silage from your property.

Destroy the silage to mitigate the risk of distributing seed. For advice on disposal options, contact Waikato Regional Council on 0800 800 401.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

If you have to feed it out, do so in a restricted area and while the soil is firm. This contains the velvetleaf to restricted areas, and reduces the amount of seed eaten by stock.

If you use a feed pad, cows will eat the seed and spread it through dung and effluent. Restrict stock and effluent to a small area.

In all cases, record areas used for grazing. This makes it easier to check for velvetleaf in the future.

I have infested fodder beet

Fence off infested areas to prevent stock grazing on velvetleaf.

If stock feed in infested areas, restrict access to other parts of the farm.

In all cases, record areas used for grazing by stock which has fed in infested areas. This makes it easier to check for velvetleaf in the future.

I have infested maize crops

Under the Biosecurity Act, you cannot knowingly move velvetleaf from your property.

Unharvested crops should only be used for maize grain.

All machinery should be thoroughly cleaned prior to movement off the farm.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR HERD OWNERS

Velvetleaf seed can stay in an animal's gut for up to a week. Wait at least 48 hours before moving stock which has eaten infested feed, from the farm.

HOW TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Waikato Regional Council staff will work with you to develop an 'Individual Biosecurity Plan' which will look at long term management options to control velvetleaf on your property and reduce the risk of spread.