

# BRING OUT YOUR WEEDS

WEED  
BINS

Information & Application Form for:

WAITAKERE'S GREEN NETWORK COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME #2

## A WAR ON WEEDS

The Waitakere City Council is supporting those who are ridding the area of our worst weeds by offering access to weed bins (and free delivery and disposal of the bins and weeds).

A weed is a plant that is not wanted. Environmental weeds are not wanted because they are invasive. In their home country they would be controlled by browsers, pests or climate. In NZ they are a big problem because they spread rapidly and overrun the native plants that make up the NZ bush and streamsides. This destroys the ability of these areas to remain healthy, and support the plants and wildlife that naturally live there. This then damages the water quality of our streams. Remember, weeds spread beyond your land using wind, water, birds and people. Keeping them under control in the garden is not effective.

## THE WORST WEEDS

The environmental weeds we particularly want binned so they spread no further are: Wild Ginger, Plectranthus, Blue Morning Glory, Agapanthus, Wandering Jew, Woolly Nightshade, Jasmine, Pampas Grass (not the native Toetoe) and Climbing Asparagus. Several of these can grow in low light conditions. This increases their ability to invade healthy bush or streamsides.

To recognize these baddies ask for 'Waitakere's Worst Weeds Identification Sheet'. For a full list of the weeds in Waitakere City ask for 'Invasive or Environmental Weeds of Waitakere' available from Council Ph 839 0400. For colour pictures visit [www.boprc.govt.nz/www/green/weeds.htm](http://www.boprc.govt.nz/www/green/weeds.htm) or call Auckland Regional Council's Enviroline Ph 0800 80 60 40.

## WHO CAN GET A WEED BIN?

You can apply for a free bin to get rid of your weeds if you live in Waitakere City and if you think you can fill it. Sharing your bin with neighbours or others in your area will help you fill it and help reduce the threat of weeds reinfesting your place.

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR A BIN?

Return this slip and wait for a call from Council staff who will try to arrange a bin for you (depending on demand and priority). Those who are working with neighbours to fill a bin and those who live by vulnerable sites such as by a stream, bush, the sea, an estuary, walkway, or park are priorities.

## WHY IS COUNCIL MAKING THIS OFFER?

Council is offering this help because it wants to work with the community to reduce the weed threat to our city. Every bit you do helps stop the spread.



## YOU NEED TO KNOW...

- The bin is for 14 days only ... unless you make special arrangements.
- The bin is for environmental weeds only. It is 9m<sup>3</sup> in capacity. You need to be able to fill the bin.
- Sorry - because of demand for bins only one bin per applicant per year can be considered.
- The bin cannot be placed on the road verge - there is a bylaw prohibiting this.
- There is also a bylaw prohibiting the stockpiling of weeds on road verges.



Waitakere City Council  
Te Taiāo o Waitakere

**YES**

I need to get rid of heaps of our worst weeds- enough to warrant a bin!

I live in Waitakere City and my name is

I live at (address)

The property I want to 'de-weed' is at:  
(If different from above)

Please indicate whether the property adjoins a park, stream or public road.

You can reach me at:

Ph#

Fax?

Email address?

The bin is for:

my property

for a group of neighbours

Please include with this slip a simple hand-drawn sketch of your property and where you would like a bin put in relation to the street or your driveway.

Send this slip to:  
The Community Projects Assistant,  
Landscape Development,  
Waitakere City Council,  
Private Bag 93 109 Henderson,  
Waitakere City.



This is a Green Network Project

The Green Network joins natural areas to create a network of gardens, parks, streams, roadside plantings and coastlines. The Green Network gives you more places to play, connects you with the countryside, gives birds and other wildlife access to your neighbourhood and encourages them to make their home here in Waitakere.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

#### Keeping Good Company

You are in good company if you are binning your weeds. In the last year Waitakere people binned over 220 tonnes of weeds which Council disposed of safely to avoid further weed spread.

#### Planting to control weeds

Most weeds need sunlight. Plant newly cleared areas densely. That will help prevent weeds reinfesting.

#### Weedy bit

The worst areas tend to be built up areas - adjoining backyards, on roadsides and on the margins of parks and streams.

#### 'Weediest' neighbourhoods

In Waitakere badly infested areas include Titirangi, Laingholm, Waatarua and Oratia and also Bethells/Te Henga and Piha

#### Council is doing its bit

Council concentrates on weed control of the land it owns i.e. the 562 parks and reserves and the 1500 kilometres of roadsides in the city. Council is currently blitzing weeds in target areas such as Moire Park, Karaka Park, Rahui Kahika Reserve, Piha Reserve and the Opanuku stream.

#### Health Alert

Some weeds are a health hazard e.g. privet, woolly nightshade and jasmine can cause allergies, asthma and dermatitis. Wandering Jew can also give some dogs dermatitis.

#### No Spray

Waitakere has a "no spray register" for those not wanting weeds around them sprayed by herbicide. This is for those ethically against spraying or for those concerned for their health. To register a "no spray" property or to find out the timetable for spraying of weeds in your locality phone 839 0400 or check your local newspaper (public notices section).

#### More Free Help

Through the Green Network Community Assistance Programme, Waitakere City Council also offers:

- subsidy for weed contractor work
- free weed spray
- free disposal of ginger through ginger bags (call 839-0400), or dumping of boot loads or trailer loads of ginger at the Refuse Transfer Station, The Concourse, Henderson
- free native locally sourced plants
- fencing funds - for keeping stock out of streams and bush
- covenanting assistance -for legally protecting your property.

