

Te Henga Wetland Weed Control Update

September 2009

Targeted spray trial of cracked willow a success

A trial using targeted aerial spraying of a remote area of the Te Henga Wetland is reaping good results in the fight to control crack willow.

In February 2009, a trial was conducted in the Mokoroa Arm of the wetland. The trial took place at 7am on a fine morning and involved spray being dispersed from a helicopter on to the trial area.

Carried out by Helisika Helicopters, it took just six minutes to treat 1.5 hectares of willow.

Waitakere City Council monitored the willow and native plants before and then one month and three months after spraying took place.

Within a month the willow showed signs of dying back. The cabbage trees poking through the canopy had survived and flaxes looked very healthy.

Another monitoring round will be done in October once the willow in the neighbouring, untreated area have re-sprouted to confirm the controlled weeds have died. We will also monitor the recovery and re-establishment of the native plants in and around in the area.

With the success of the trial and on advice from Rodney District Council, we will look at expanding the treatment area this summer to the rest of the Mokoroa Arm. This will require approval from landowners and a consent from Rodney District Council.

To find out more about the monitoring results so far go to the council's website www.waitakere.govt.nz or for a hard copy phone the council's 24 hour call centre on 839 0400.



The trial targeted a specific area of the wetland and was designed to have minimal impact on humans and native plants.

Weed control in the wetland for summer 2009/2010

Te Ngahere resident Samantha Happy will carry out general weed control work in the wetland over the summer months.

This includes controlling alligator weed and removing smaller grey and crack willows from the Waitakere River and Mokoroa Stream edges.

Willow will be accessed by foot or boat and controlled by the drill and inject method. A boat will also be used to reach the alligator weed, which will be sprayed.

Play your part in the future of Te Henga wetland

The local Forest and Bird group wants to be more involved with Te Henga wetland as part of its vision for Matuku Reserve.

This work will involve working with wetland landowners to develop a vision, long term goals and actions for the area.

Subcommittee chairman, Robert Woolf, is keen to hear from local residents who wish to be involved with the project. He can be contacted on phone 816 8899 or email Robert.Woolf@gmail.com



Te Ngahere



Before willow control.



One month after trial.



Three months after control treatment and the willow is dying (see brown area).

For more information on any work at Te Henga call the council's 24-hour call centre on 839 0400.