

Kia ora !



**Restore
Hibiscus & Bays**
Ngahere Tupu Tonu • Thriving Nature

A volunteer has noticed an invasive weed called moth plant on your property.

Moth plant grows vigorously and, if left, will smother and kill any other plants in its path. It produces flowers in late spring, and these turn into pods in summer. The pods are loaded with seeds that are dispersed far and wide by the wind which enables the plant to invade ecologically sensitive areas, destroying native bush.

Moth plant vine(s) have been seen in the following area:

What can you do?

Remove the moth plant (see overleaf for clear instructions - the 3 P's).

Keep an eye out for new seedlings - moth plant seeds can survive in the ground for up to seven years so new seedlings will be popping up for a long time to come even after you have removed a mature vine.

Watch for flowers - moth plant vines can be quite hard to spot at times but their white and pink flowers stand out from November to January.

Be a moth plant neighbourhood champion - keep an eye out for moth plant in your neighbourhood whether its on public or private land and take action.

Identifying moth plant

Seedlings - found
year round



Break stem -
white sap oozes out



Flowers - spring
to early summer



Pods form in
late summer



The 3 P's of Action

1. Pull the roots

Pulling out small plants is A LOT easier than dealing with mature vines. Pull them out by grasping the stem close to the ground. You might need to dig a little bit to get ALL the roots out, especially if the ground is hard. You can leave any vines hanging in the tree – they'll soon wither away.

2. Paste the stumps

For plants where you can't get the roots out, cut them as close to the ground as you can and paste the stump with herbicide gel to prevent re-growth. Without herbicide they will definitely regrow. The most effective option is Cut n Paste's MetGel or Picloram. Picloram is more damaging to the environment so we recommend MetGel. We recommend you also scrape and paste the side of the stem below the cut. You can leave any vines hanging in the tree – they'll soon wither away, but makes sure they can't reach the ground or they may re-root themselves. Do NOT use the herbicide if rain is expected – the gel needs time to dry otherwise it will wash off in the rain polluting soil and waterways.

3. Pluck the pods

If pods have already formed, you will need to pluck them off the vines as well as cutting and pasting the vine. You might need to use a rake to reach them. Pods will continue to ripen even if removed from the vine or if left on a dead vine and will still release their seeds if they are not disposed of carefully. Put the pods in a plastic bag and then into your council rubbish bin to be taken to landfill.

Warning: the sticky sap that oozes from cut vines can irritate skin and stain clothing. When working around moth plant, wear gloves, glasses and a long-sleeved shirt that you don't mind getting stained.

Restore Hibiscus and Bays operates a FREE tool library.

We can lend you herbicide gel and handsaws to tackle moth plant and other ecological weeds.

Visit our website for further information:
restorehb.org.nz/resources-tool-library/ or email us:
info@restorehb.org.nz

**If we can help with further support and advice on control of moth plant or other environmental weeds, please visit our website:
restorehb.org.nz/resources-pest-plants/ or email us: pestplants@restorehb.org.nz**