



Restore
Hibiscus & Bays

January 2021

Moth Plant

Moth plant is a particularly nasty pest plant as it spreads so quickly and smothers our native bush. It is poisonous to people (and Monarch butterflies!) and its sap can irritate our skin. From January, the vines form bell-shaped creamy coloured flowers, occasionally with pink streaks. Over the next few months, these flowers turn into large, green, pear-shaped pods, which each release thousands of fluffy parachute seeds into the air infesting more and more of our gardens, parks and bush.

If you notice moth plant on your property or in your nearby parks, please follow these guidelines.

If you spot it on someone else's private property, you can try speaking to the property owner or dropping one of our flyers into their letterbox.

Email info@restorehb.org.nz with any questions.

www.restorehb.org.nz

Recognise

Keep your eyes peeled, especially in Spring and early Summer when the flowers make this plant easier to spot.



Spread the Word

Talk to your neighbours and encourage them to take action too!



Remove

For larger vines, find the stem where it goes into the ground, cut it near the base and immediately paste a thin smear of MetGel onto the cut stem (can purchase at any hardware store or garden centre). Dig out any small seedlings, including roots.



Dispose

Dispose of the flowers, roots and any pods in your rubbish bin to go to landfill, securely tied inside a plastic bag - to stop it spreading to other areas. Unfortunately, they can't be composted. Leave the vine hanging in the tree to die.



Further Resources

[Managing Pest Plants](#)

[MP Flyer for Private Property](#)

[Health and Safety Guidance](#)

[Other Pest Plant Resources](#)

[To borrow tools and equipment, visit our tool library.](#)