New Zealand's Worst Weed Problem

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Community groups and regional councils have been controlling wilding conifers for decades



Status quo management has not successfully controlled the increase in wilding conifers nationally



Without management the area invaded could be 7 million ha, or 25% of NZ's total land area

WILDING CONIFER CONTROL PROGRAMME - STRUCTURE

NEW ZEALAND WILDING CONIFER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2015-30



Wilding conifers are a major invader both in NZ and internationally



The 'Winning against wildings' programme and aligned work seeks to 'flatten the curve' for wildings in NZ









Lodgepole pine in NZ grows faster, produces more seeds for a given age, and has greater impacts on plant diversity compared to other regions



Taylor et al. 2016 GEB 25:96; Taylor-Davis et al. 2019 Ecography 42:12



Wood et al. 2015 J. Ecol. 103: 121







What impacts and legacies are wildings having? What benefits result from containing or controlling wildings?



What is being done to improve the management and prevention of wilding conifer invasions?

Detection

Control

Prevention







How can we better manage landscape-scale invaders?

Awareness of wildings varies among regions

Percentage of survey respondents who are aware of wilding conifers in their district



Growing view that wildings are harmful

	More harmful than		More beneficial	
	beneficial	Neutral	than harmful	Responses
2015	67.3%	-	22.7%	352
2017	64.8%	14.1%	7.0%	1405
2019	78.4%	9.9%	3.5%	1020

Summary

- Wilding conifers are a major weed issue in NZ and internationally
- Major efforts to better understand wilding conifer invasions and improve their management are underway
- We're launching a new webinar series to highlight progress and stimulate discussion of what could be done next
- Let us know what you like to know more about!

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Wildings Webinar Series

Next webinar on 12 August at 11am by Tom Etherington about distribution models of invasion risk

Email us with your suggestions of webinars/ topics you'd like to hear about at <u>webinars@nzwildingconifergroup.org</u>

