

TUTSAN

Hypericum androsaemum

Hypericaceae



Tutsan beetle

Releases of two new agents for tutsan began in 2017. Both the adults and the larvae of the tutsan beetle (*Chrysolina abchasica*) feed on the leaves. The larvae of the tutsan moth (*Lathronympha strigana*) feed on the shoot tips and inside the stems, but also inside the fruits where they destroy the seeds. It is hoped that these insects together can reduce tutsan populations, especially where the plant is currently highly invasive in the North Island. A rust fungus (*Melampsora hypericorum*), which was first noticed here in the 1950s is common on tutsan in New Zealand but has a variable impact as some tutsan genotypes are more susceptible to it than others. This may explain why tutsan is not problematic in the South Island like it is in the North Island.