

The eradication of weed species in New Zealand's National Interest Pest Responses Programme

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Summary The National Interest Pest Response (NIPR) Programme is a nation-wide government-led programme that focuses on the eradication of pests that have been established for many years in New Zealand. The Ministry for Primary Industries is the lead agency. It provides coordination across the many regions and organisations involved in the NIPR programme, facilitates the use of best operational practices, and provides funding for pest management activities and operational research.

There are currently nine NIPR weed species under eradication. *Bryonia cretica* (white bryony), *Ehrharta villosa* (pyp grass), *Eichhornia crassipes* (water hyacinth), *Hydrilla verticillata* (hydrilla),

Phragmites australis (phragmites), *Salvinia molesta* (salvinia), and *Zizania latifolia* (Manchurian wild rice) are internationally recognised as major environmental weeds; *Sorghum halepense* (Johnson grass) and *Moraea flaccida* (Cape tulip) are serious agricultural weeds. Significant progress toward eradication has been achieved since operations under the NIPR programme began 10 years ago, including the eradication of *Ceratophyllum demersum* (hornwort) from the South Island, and there have been no detections of hydrilla plants and Johnson grass for over 2 years and 6 years respectively.

Keywords Environmental weeds, eradication, National Interest Pest Response Programme.