

# MILE-A-MINUTE

*Dipogon lignosus*

## Management programme

Exclusion	<b>Eradication</b>	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
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## Impacts

Economic	<b>Biodiversity</b>	Soil resources	Water quantity/quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	<b>Amenity/recreation</b>	Animal welfare

## Objectives

Reduce the level of infestation of mile-a-minute within the Waikato region to zero density to prevent adverse effects and impacts.

## Why is it a pest?

Mile-a-minute is a vigorously growing vine that can smother and kill low growing plants, shrubs and trees. Forming blankets with its thick mat of stems, it eventually takes over areas by shading out desirable plants. It thrives in bare sites, with germination of its long-lived seeds stimulated by disturbance.

Mile-a-minute increases soil nitrogen (through symbiotic bacteria in its roots) in sites with naturally poor soils. This changes the species that can grow there to higher-fertility weedy communities, to the detriment of specialised native plants like orchids, ferns and herbs.

It can be spread via its seeds, most of which drop near the parent plant, but can also be dispersed more widely in contaminated soil and dumped garden waste. Mile-a-minute can invade coastal areas, cliffs, shrublands, limestone areas and forest margins.

## Responsibility for control

**Waikato Regional Council is responsible for the control of mile-a-minute within the Waikato region. If you think you've seen it, call us – don't try to control it yourself.**

- All occupiers are encouraged to report any sightings of mile-a-minute on their properties (rule MAM-1 of the *Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2032*) and to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council in areas where control programmes are in place.
- If mile-a-minute is present on a property that is to be subdivided or developed, there are additional rules and requirements that apply under section 6.6 of the RPMP 2022-2032.

**Mile-a-minute is banned from being sold, propagated, distributed, or included in commercial displays.**

## More information

- For additional information and advice on mile-a-minute, call our pest plant staff on freephone 0800 800 401.

**The following publications are available from the Waikato Regional Council. Contact us to request a copy (freephone 0800 800 401).**

- National Pest Plant Accord (Manual of plants banned from sale, propagation and distribution) (free)
- Plant Me Instead! (Plants to use in place of pest plants)

## What does it look like?

Mile-a-minute is an evergreen, scrambling perennial climber.



### Flower

- Pea-like flowers (15mm) which can be pink, white, lavender, or reddish-purple.
- Flowering occurs over a long period from July to January.



### Fruit/seed

- Produces sickle-shaped seed pods (to 40mm long).
- Pods can be found on the vines all year round.
- Each pod, containing 4-6 seeds, splits when ripe to explosively release the seeds.

### Leaves/stems

- Leaves are made up of three triangular/heart-shaped leaflets.
- Leaves up to 55mm long.
- Leaf stems are moderately hair and woody towards their base.