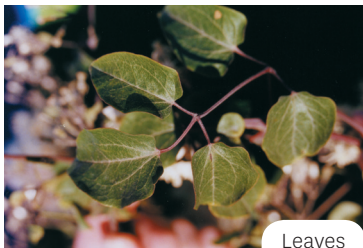


Old man's beard - *Clematis vitalba*

Old man's beard is a threat to forests, reserves, flood protection, plantings and gardens.



Mature seeds have long plume-like tails



Leaves



Flowers



Immature seeds

Why is it a problem?

Old man's beard is a vigorous growing vine which forms a tangled smothering mass over trees and shrubs blocking out light and eventually killing supporting plants. One plant is capable of blanketing an area of 180 square metres. It seeds profusely and the seed can remain viable in the soil for several years. Stems can provide up to 10m of growth in a season. Introduced from Europe as a decorative plant, old man's beard has developed into a major weed problem particularly in the central regions of New Zealand.

Identification:

Deciduous vine - sheds leaves in winter

Leaves: Vary from 50mm to 150mm in length.

- Variable shapes serrated, oval, heart-shaped or lance-shaped
- Opposite each other on stem
- Five leaflets per leaf
- Other Clematis species generally have three leaflets

Flowers: White/greenish to yellow/white in colour.

- Approximately 2cm diameter.
- Generally in clusters
- December through to April

Seeds: Sets seed around April

- Dispersed during autumn/winter period
- Have long plume-like tails which aid dispersal by wind or water

Vines: May grow to 15cm in diameter or larger

- Young vines are ribbed and often purple in colour
- Older vines are woody, often grey/brown in colour
- Bark of older vines flakes off when bent

Please be aware of this weed and help prevent it from becoming established here now - before it is too late!

Old man's beard control advice

What we can do to help protect Canterbury

Vines climbing shrubs, trees and hedges:

1. **IDENTIFY** plant properly and don't confuse native Clematis species which usually have 3 leaflets with old man's beard

2. **SEARCH** and trace all vines back to ground level

3. **CUT** all vines as close to the ground as possible

4. **TREAT** freshly cut stumps immediately with an undiluted herbicide such as:

- Glyphosate (Roundup, Network, Glyphosate 360 etc)
- Woody Weed Killer
- Vigilant
- Banvine

A small paint brush is a useful tool for painting stumps. Use all herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure no herbicide comes into contact with other plants, the soil or waterways.

5. **FINALLY** vines can be left to die on the trees, shrubs and hedges but ensure that the hanging vines are clear of the ground so that they cannot take root.

Vines scrambling over the ground or covering large areas:

Seek advice on control from an Environment Canterbury Biosecurity Officer.

Non-chemical control

Will only succeed if ALL roots are dug out. When vines touch the ground they usually develop new roots at those points and all of those roots have to be dug out too for control to be successful.

Important:

*Just cutting the vines will result in rapid re-growth.
Check the site each spring for re-growth and new seedlings.*



Identify: Old man's beard has 5 leaflets



Seek advice from an Environment Canterbury Biosecurity Officer if you have vines scrambling over the ground or covering large areas.