

Coast tea tree

Leptospermum laevigatum

Description

A woody shrub or small twisted tree up to 6 m.

Stems: Older branches have thin brown bark, shed in long strips.

Leaves: Similar to but larger, broader and more rounded than New Zealand manuka.

Flowers: White, five petals, similar to New Zealand manuka.

Fruit: Hard, domed woody capsules with seven to ten cells. New Zealand manuka capsules have five cells.

Origin

Native of South-east Australia.

Where is it found?

Coastal areas only, behind sand dunes.

Currently only found on Matakana Island but likely to spread along coast.

How does it spread?

Tiny seed dispersed by wind and water.

Why is it a problem?

Coast tea tree is very tolerant of salt spray.

It displaces native vegetation on sand dunes and can eventually dominate them.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer



Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Coast tea tree is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any coast tea tree on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread coast tea tree in the Bay of Plenty.

Assistance may be available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council by way of approved programmes.

If you think you have found this plant please contact Bay of Plenty Regional Council land management staff for advice.

CAUTION: When using herbicide please READ THE LABEL thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

How do I get rid of it?

Manual: Small plants can be pulled.

Stump treatment: Use all year round for scattered larger plants. Use glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®) at the rate of 1 part glyphosate to 4 parts water (e.g. 1 cup to 4 cups). Cut the plants down as close as possible to the ground.

Apply herbicide mix liberally to the cut surface and sides of the stump to ground level using a trigger sprayer or knapsack.

Spraying: For large numbers of smaller plants. Use all year round.

Spray with metsulfuron-methyl (e.g. Escort, Meturon, Matrix).

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 5 g per 10 L water.

With handgun use 35 g per 100 L water.

Always add a penetrant (e.g. Organosilicone or Pulse) to the spray mix. Use 10 ml for every 10 L water.

