

Royal fern

Osmunda regalis

Description

Fern with short trunk up to 2 m high.

Fronds die back in winter.

Fronds: Up to 2 m long, subdivided twice.

Stems: Upright short trunk in older plants.

Spores: Dense reddish brown spore enclosures (sporangia) appear on the twisted upper ends of fertile fronds.

Origin

Temperate Europe, Africa, India, America.

Probably introduced to New Zealand as a garden plant.

Where is it found?

Damp or wet swampy areas, wetlands and sometimes streamsides.

How does it spread?

Spores are blown long distances by wind.

Why is it a problem?

Royal fern forms dense colonies smothering all other plants in shade or light. It can eventually dominate wetlands.

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



Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Royal fern is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any royal fern on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread royal fern 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: Digging is not recommended as pieces of rhizome may be left which will re-grow.

Herbicide treatment: Use glyphosate granules (e.g. Agpro glyphosate 688 dry) during summer.

Apply 5 g granules to the centre of the leaf crown (use prill dropper or sauce bottle)

For seedlings, use liquid glyphosate 360 at 100 mls per 10 L water.

For large areas of plants aerial spraying with glyphosate may be appropriate. Please call Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management staff for advice.

Follow up treatment will be required at least every two years to check for seedlings and re-invasion from elsewhere.

