

# Old man's beard

## *Clematis vitalba*

### Description

Woody climbing vine.

Deciduous (loses its leaves in winter). Native clematis is evergreen.

**Stems:** Young stems are reddish with six ribs running along them. Native clematis has smooth stems.

**Leaves:** Have five leaflets. Native clematis all have three leaflets.

**Flowers:** Creamy white in small clusters, flowering from December to February. Native clematis flowers in spring.

**Fruit:** Fluffy grey seed-heads in autumn and winter.

### Origin

Native of Europe.

Introduced to New Zealand as a garden plant.

### Where is it found?

Old man's beard is able to grow almost anywhere, in bush, pine forest, shelter belts and gullies.

### How does it spread?

Seeds spread by the wind. They don't tend to blow far.

They are also carried by water and in the hair of animals.

### Why is it a problem?

Old man's beard eventually forms a dense blanket of growth which smothers and eventually kills trees and shrubs beneath it. It is a significant threat to native bush.



### Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Old man's beard is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any old man's beard on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread old man's beard in the Bay of Plenty.

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

**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.

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

### How do I get rid of it?

**Spraying:** Spray from November to March.

Individual vines are often difficult to trace to the roots so spraying is often the most effective treatment.

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

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

With handgun use 25 g per 100 L of water.

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

**Stump treatment:** Where vines are easy to find and where they are growing into tall trees, this is the best method.

Use from November to March.

Cut the vines close to the ground.

Apply a blob of Vigilant® gel to the freshly cut surface, or use glyphosate (e.g. Roundup®) at the rate of 1 part glyphosate to 4 parts water (e.g. 1 cup to 4 cups).

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

