

### National Pest Plant Accord reassessment 2014-15

At the completion of the 2012 review of the National Pest Plant Accord (the Accord) list, the National Pest Plant Accord Steering Group (Steering Group) proposed a period of time in which more information would be collected on the below risk species. This would be followed by a reassessment in 2014 of whether or not to include the species on the Accord.

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name/s</b>
<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast banksia
<i>Cornus capitata</i>	Strawberry dogwood
<i>Jasminum polyanthum</i>	Jasmine
<i>Rhaphiolepis umbellata</i>	Sexton's bride, Indian hawthorn, Yeddow hawthorn

The Steering Group has reassessed the four risk species based on information provided by a Technical Advisory Group and industry. The information provided to the Steering Group has highlighted that all four species have invasive characteristics, and ongoing trade in these species will likely result in a range of significant impacts. The Steering Group therefore considers that these four species meet the criteria required to be added to the Accord list.

Prior to making the decision as whether or not to make a recommendation to the Chief Technical Officer (Ministry for Primary Industries), that all four species be added to the Accord list (and made Unwanted Organisms<sup>1</sup> under the Biosecurity Act 1993), the Steering Group want to consider any additional feedback from interested or affected parties.

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to seek any additional feedback regarding the reassessment of these species. Feedback is being sought from interested parties, in particular industry and local government, so that those directly affected by any decision have an opportunity to see the information considered by the Steering Group, and provide feedback on the Steering Group's reassessment.

### Feedback

Should you have any feedback on the Steering Group's reassessment that these species should be added to the Accord list or would like further information, including the background information that was considered by the Technical Advisory Group and Steering Group during the reassessment process, please contact the Accord coordinator by email at [nppa@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:nppa@mpi.govt.nz). All feedback needs to be with the Accord coordinator by Friday 31 July 2015.

### Next steps

The Steering Group will consider any feedback provided by industry and interested parties before making a decision on this matter. It is anticipated that the Steering Group's decision, and any determination by the Chief Technical Officer, would be communicated to industry by the end of November 2015.

Please note there will be no formal public announcement of any proposed changes until after any species have been formally added to the Accord list.

### The species

#### *Banksia integrifolia*

*Banksia integrifolia* is a rapidly growing shelter plant species that is tolerant of a wide range of habitats and conditions, and is likely to out compete native plants. It is promoted as a shelter-belt, hedge and general garden plant that will attract birds. The plant is listed as an environmental weed by the Department of Conservation and will become an increasing issue as it appears in more coastal areas. It has limited natural spread, so human distribution is a significant means for spread.

#### *Cornus capitata*

*Cornus capitata* is a rapidly growing species that can tolerate harsh conditions, including drought and shade, and creates dense thickets. Introduced as an ornamental garden plant, it is known to invade native and plantation forests. Its hardiness and ease of propagation means it has a high potential for wide distribution through informal garden trade and is available in nurseries; the species is also dispersed locally by birds. It is expensive to manage and is listed as an environmental weed by the Department of Conservation, due to the significant effects it has on public conservation land.

#### *Jasminum polyanthum*

*Jasminum polyanthum* is an aggressive climber that can be very damaging to the environment. It is spread through human mediated movement. While it is a popular ornamental plant, it can form a dense ground cover, preventing the growth of native seedlings and smothering other vegetation up to mid-canopy level. It is a hardy plant easily propagated through the commercial garden trade, and informal trade and networks. It is also spread easily through garden waste. The plant is very difficult to control, requiring repeated treatments to eradicate. It is listed as an environmental weed by the Department of Conservation, due to the significant effects it has on public conservation land.

#### *Rhaphiolepis umbellata*

*Rhaphiolepis umbellata* has the potential to form dense, impenetrable cover on dry exposed sites, competing with and replacing native plants, especially in coastal areas. The plant is common in landscape gardening, and its seeds are often spread by birds. Geographical distribution records indicate that it is in the early phase of naturalisation; preventing further distribution could reduce further naturalisation. There is limited specific information about control technologies available for the plant, however any control will be difficult where plants occur on inaccessible coastal cliffs.

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1 Unwanted organism status is determined by a Chief Technical Officer under the Biosecurity Act 1993. It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to sell, offer for sale, exhibit for sale, propagate or distribute species that have been determined to be unwanted organisms throughout New Zealand, without the permission of a Chief Technical Officer.