

Space Invaders



Weeds are like the aliens in a space invader game – they go everywhere and are difficult to destroy. Weeds penetrate every nook and crevice, in the garden, on the farm, along the beach or on sheer rock faces.

Weeds are very pushy.

Weeds take over space used by slower growing native plants and have made some extinct. They also alter soil conditions so the environment is no longer habitable by the original plants.

- Willows convert swamps into forest and the native swamp orchid loses out.
- Spartina changes mud flats into high ground with the loss of both native plants and shellfish.
- Kikuyu acts like concrete, preventing Cook's scurvy grass from growing through.



Frightening fact: There are more naturalised exotic plants than native species in New Zealand.



Drastic measures are called for, such as planting threatened plants in traffic islands, but more importantly, we need to safeguard natural habitats so they remain suitable places for native plants. That takes a lot of effort and expense. Everyone can help by not growing plants that may spread to native areas and disposing of weeds wisely.

Learn to recognise the space invaders.

