



Project Kowhai

Taiwan Cherry (*Prunus campanulata*)

Taiwan Cherry (also known as bell flower cherry) is an invasive tree that is rapidly colonising the Mokoroa and Waiewe areas.

It produces fruit that is very palatable to birds and is therefore being spread widely. The seeds readily germinate, soon grow too big to easily hand pull, and if cut they re-grow. If not controlled now it will become a major problem, as it has in other parts of New Zealand, and will replace the canopy of native bush areas.

It is listed as a restricted plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Pest Management Plan.

It was introduced into NZ in 1988 and has rapidly naturalised. It was popularised as the “Tui Tree” because it attracted these birds in winter when there was little other food. Like the possum what seemed a good idea has turned into a major pest. Some cultivars are mistakenly sold as sterile so are best avoided.

Project Kowhai has been established to lead a community project to remove these trees.

Kowhai is an alternative tree that flowers early in spring and provides food for tui and other native birds. Native fuchsia or grevilleas are good alternatives, or puriri and rewarewa on larger areas of land.



To remove trees on your property:

- Stump Treat - Cut the tree down and treat entire cut surface of stump with undiluted glyphosate. Make sure no branches or leaves are below cut line or they will regrow. This needs to be done within 10 minutes of cutting.
- Cut and Fill - make downward cuts around the base of the tree and apply / fill with undiluted glyphosate, or apply chemical gel. Apply within 10 minutes of making the cut.
- Drill and Fill - drill 12-14mm holes at 200mm intervals around the trunk and fill with 10-15mls of undiluted glyphosate; or metsulfuron (5g metsulfuron per litre)

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For more information contact
Jacqui Hughes (07) 308 7064,
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water).

- Overall Spray - spray (during summer) with 5g metsulfuron per 10 litres water or 60ml Brushkiller per 10 litres water (small trees only). Penetrant is best added.
- Hand pull small seedlings ensuring root network is also removed.
- Basal Spray - spray or paint the base of the tree in a complete circumference. To determine height to spray, multiply the diameter by three and this will give you vertical distance from base to spray. Use X Tree Basal or similar which comes ready to use (no dilution required).

Note: Always follow the manufacturer's safety instructions.

Further advice and possibly assistance can be provided.

Kowhai may also be provided should you wish to replace your Taiwanese cherry with another tree for birds.

Removal of trees on public land:

Many of these trees are in reserves and on roadsides. It is going to require community effort to remove these.

How you can help:

- Advise us of the location of trees – they will be obvious in autumn when they turn to orange or spring when they are covered in dark pink bell-shaped flowers and tuis.
- Come to working bees when we will work together to clear areas.
- In addition assistance with the Waiewe Stream restoration is always welcome.



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