

Horehound

Marrubium vulgare

- Horehound is a small bushy shrub growing up to 60cm high, with deeply crinkled leaves.
- The stems and lower surface of the leaves have white woolly hairs, giving the plant a silvery appearance.
- The white flower clusters are densely packed, forming balls of flowers up the stem.



seedling



infestation



Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019

REMOVING HOREHOUND

By hand: Small areas of horehound can be hand pulled before flowering and left on the ground to break down. Plants in flower (or with seed) should be removed from site, as these will develop seed from the remaining nutrients contained in the stem, even after being pulled. It is important to place flowering/ seed bearing plants inside two sealed bags and disposed of in general waste. **Do not dispose of horehound via green waste.**

Foliar spraying: Foliar spraying is when you directly spray the leaves of a plant. Several herbicides work well on horehound including metsulfuron-methyl (eg. Associate). Herbicides can have difficulty penetrating the hairy leaves. Adding a wetting agent, such as Pulse Penetrant, helps to ensure spraying is effective and kills the plant.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD

Horehound reproduces by seed and is mostly spread by animals (seedheads attach to wool and fur), slashing, or seeds trapped in soil/ mud moved by vehicles, machinery or shoes.

IMPACTS

Horehound is mainly a weed of agricultural areas, but it can invade native communities including dry coastal vegetation, lowland grassland, and grassy woodland, where it can outcompete native species including threatened orchids.

WHERE ARE YOU LIKELY TO SEE IT?

A limited number of small populations have been recorded in Kingborough, including Taroona and Tinderbox, in disturbed dry vegetation communities and roadsides.