

Contorta Pine

**(*Pinus contorta* subsp. *Contorta*
Pinus contorta subsp. *murrayana*)**

Is Contorta Pine on your property?

Contorta pine is included in our Regional Pest Plant Management Strategy as a Containment plant. This means that within a defined control area the pest plant species will be controlled wherever it is found. The focus of control is placed where infestations are low or where the pest plant in question poses a high risk. If you see any sites where it is growing or can help with details of the plant, please contact us on free phone 0508 800 800.



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Identification

Large shrub or small to medium tree. Resinous, can be erect or spreading with straight or twisted branches, usually almost to ground level. Bark reddish-brown, grey on the surface, fissured forming small plates. Shoots brown and hairless, two-needled leaves usually twisted, yellowish-green with median resin ducts. Male cones long and cylindrical; female cones woody and long-lived, usually pointing downwards on the branch. Seed with 1cm wing.

Weedy characteristics

Prolific seeder, early maturing, tall and long-lived. Tolerates most habitats including hot to very cold conditions, wind, salt, most soils, altitude, damage and little shade.

Methods of dispersal

Wind and occasionally water.

Environmental impacts

Forms dense stands, especially on poor soils, and becomes a permanent canopy. Removes ground water and destroys soil structure causing drought and flooding. Leaf litter inhibits growth of undergrowth plants and affects water quality, can destroy freshwater habitats. Extends forest above the native tree line.

Typical habitats

Disturbed and open forest, scrubland, tussockland, scree and volcanic slopes, moorland and bare land.

Control

1. Dig or pull out small plants all year round.
2. Fell at ground level. Stems occasionally resprout. All year round.
3. Swab stump: Escort 5g/L or Tordon Brushkiller XT, or Grazon 5% or Vigilant gel. All year round.
4. Bore & fill: 1 hole/150 mm of trunk, 2 ml Escort @ 20 g/L / hole; or Tordon BK 10 ml/hole; or 10ml/hole of neat Glyphosate. All year round.
5. Spray: Escort or Tordon BK or glyphosate. All at gorse rates in summer.

Site management

Stems can be left to mulch. Avoid fire. Plant shady species to avoid germination. Create wide shelter belt around plantations. Exclude livestock.

Species recovery

Stems occasionally resprout after cutting

For more information freephone 0508 800 800.

