

# Tutsan

*(Hypericum androsaemum)*

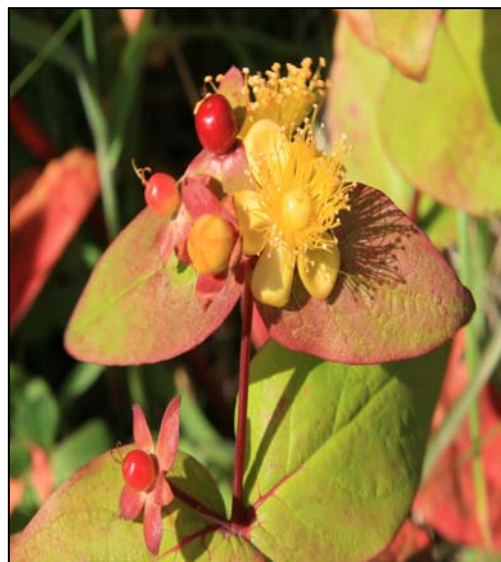
## Is tutsan on your property?

Tutsan is included in Horizons Regional Pest Plant Strategy as a boundary control plant. Our goal is to reduce the occurrence of tutsan spreading from infested land to clean land. Specifically we want to reduce the spread of tutsan from the heavily infested Ruapehu District to elsewhere in the Region. Where necessary, we will manage populations of tutsan in high-value natural areas in conjunction with other pest management. We will also investigate and support bio-control options for tutsan. If you see any sites of infestation, please contact us on freephone 0508 800 800.

## Identification

Tutsan is an evergreen or semi-evergreen shrub up to 1.5 m tall.

- The flowers are pale yellow, appearing in clusters of 2-8 flowers. Fruits are red, becoming black when ripe.
- Tutsan leaves are pale green, often bluish-green below, egg-shaped and attached to stems at the broad end of the leaf.
- Tutsan flowers from November to February followed by fruit set with red fruit becoming black when dry.



## Weedy characteristics

Tutsan escaped from cultivation in 1870 and is now found throughout New Zealand. Favouring marginal land and higher rainfall areas. Tutsan is nontoxic but is unpalatable to stock and can quickly spread over large areas.

## Methods of dispersal

Seeds are dispersed by birds and by contaminating machinery, and stock. Road working machinery and mowers may also spread the seed. Soil disturbance, rivers, streams, stock and garden lovers are also involved. Tutsan has been in the Ruapehu district for a number of years, over the last 5 years it has rapidly spread via roadsides and rivers.

**Impact on indigenous plants.**

Tutsan shades out emerging native plant species, and forms a canopy on forest floors.

**Typical habitats**

Low fertility areas, roadsides, gravel pits, streams and river margins, also likes shaded areas, forestry blocks, bush under story, gardens.

**Control**

Herbicide: Tordon 2G, Rate 55grms/m<sup>2</sup> of ground covered by the drip line of the shrub.

Chemical control: Tordon Brush killer at gorse rates. (Or chemicals with the same active ingredient.)

It is advisable to use penetrant at recommended rates.

Spray in open areas before December preferred, shaded areas can be sprayed later as plant is still fresher and hasn't formed a wax coating to the same extent.

**Site management**

Apply fertiliser then over-sow with a clover/grass mix. Check label recommendations of the chemicals used to control tutsan to avoid any residue that may affect grass establishment.

**Species recovery.**

Possible re-growth. Treat as per spray recommendations.

Lift fertility of the site, which may help prevent seedling growth. Stock will push harder into weeded areas damaging new seedlings.

**For more information freephone 0508 800 800.**

