

8. YELLOW FLAG IRIS IN LOWER AVON RIVER REACHES

Officer responsible Greenspace Manager	Author Robyn Croucher - Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5314
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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of maintenance procedures planned, and currently in place, to manage the containment and eradication of Yellow Flag Iris in the lower reaches of the Avon River. The contents of this report was originally contained in a memo to the Board, who have since requested that it be presented in a report format.

It is worth noting that Yellow Flag Iris is classified as an *unwanted organism* and cannot be sold, propagated or distributed within New Zealand.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance is restricted to "topping" (removal) of the flower heads before they seed. This is carried out annually and has a limited success rate with restricting weed growth and spread.

ERADICATION

Eradication of the weed is a long-term project and will involve removing manageable sections each year and readdressing any regrowth from the previous years work. The widespread application of herbicide, allowed under resource consent, is recognised as a successful method to eradicate the weed. Environment Canterbury is currently awaiting the outcome of a resource consent application, which will allow the authority (using herbicide) to carry out a managed programme of weed eradication in Canterbury waterways. If successful, there is a possibility that the Council can work in partnership with Environment Canterbury, under the same consent, for Christchurch City waterways. It is expected that the Council will be given an indication by Environment Canterbury within the next month or two.

POST ERADICATION

Once the Iris has been dealt with, there will be a need to address the bank erosion issues. This will involve toe stabilisation work and replacement planting.

Any questions related to the containment and eradication of Yellow Flag Iris in Christchurch City waterways should be directed to the Senior Contract Manager (Land Drainage).

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

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