

Blue spur flower

Lamiaceae - *Plectranthus ecklonii*



What does it look like?

An erect shrub that grows up to 3m tall. Both stems and leaves are covered in short fine hairs. Leaves are oval shaped and have irregular serrations around edges with small, purple, tubular flowers from mid-summer to mid-autumn.

Why is it a problem?

This long-lived plant is tolerant of shady damp conditions but can also handle moderate to high temperatures. It forms dense stands which prevent the establishment of other native seedlings. It easily establishes along forest margins, and disturbed bush and shrublands. It can be spread by seed, however most new infestations occur from stem fragments in soil movement.

Control Methods

Physical control:

- Smaller plants are easy to dig out. Larger plants can be dug out as well, but care needs to be taken to remove all root and stem matter.

Herbicide:

- Large infestations can be cut down and stump treated with glyphosate (200ml/L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L).
- Spray (all year round): glyphosate (10ml/L + penetrant) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g/10L + penetrant)

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

Pest Management Programme

- National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA)

[Request more information](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/pest-hub/pest-hub-enquiry-form)

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