

# Spanish heath

*Erica lusitanica*

## What does it look like?

Spanish heath is a brittle and erect woody perennial shrub growing up to two metres high, establishing in habitats from near sea level up to 1,000 metres. It is densely covered in small, needle-like leaves, arranged in groups of three or four. The plant produces masses of snowy white flowers from March to December. Seeds are very small and light and are contained within smooth capsules about three millimetres long. They are readily dispersed by wind.

## Why is it a problem?

This plant can form dense stands on disturbed and bare sites. These stands can be persistent in short vegetation types such as herb fields, tussock land and fernland, preventing the recruitment of desirable species. It is usually succeeded in taller growing plant communities.



## Control Methods

### Physical control

Hand pull seedlings.

### Herbicide control

Spray (active spring growth only): 2,4-D ester (50ml/10L).

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

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## Related Links

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/spanish-heath/>