

Common polypody

Polypodium vulgare

What does it look like?

Polypody is a low growing (up to 25cm tall) evergreen fern with fronds that grow from horizontal rhizomes. Triangular leathery leaflets are light green, and grow more-or-less opposite each other along the midrib of the frond, with leaflets giving a zig-zag appearance up the midrib. Large round clusters of brown spores are found on the underside of the leaflets

Why is it a problem?

This species is found in Banks Peninsula, across Canterbury and up into Marlborough, as well as the lower North Island.

Polypody is an aggressive spreading fern that thrives on rocky terrain in relatively open conditions. It occupies micro-sites suited to native plants, and suppresses low-growing species by smothering them.



Control Methods

Contact GW for advice.

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Related Links

Polypodiaceae guide <https://datastore.landcareresearch.co.nz/dataset/nzflora-brownsey-parris-perrie-2021-polypodiaceae/resource/507be5a4-4dde-4c22-9765-cb1c64a5d88b>

Flora of NZ - Polypodium vulgare <https://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Polypodium-vulgare.html>

Rules

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

The National Pest Plant Accord is designed to prevent the sale, distribution and propagation of a set list of pest plants (the Accord list) within New Zealand. If allowed to spread further, these pest plants could seriously damage the New Zealand economy and environment.