National Interest Pest Responses

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National Interest Pest Responses

- In 2004, Cabinet assigned MAF a new accountability for national pest management programmes
- Central Regional Government Biosecurity Forum endorsed an interim process for deciding when MAF will lead delivery of national pest management programmes.
- Interim process included principles and criteria for decision making, and the overall process to be followed.

National Interest Pest Responses

- Inter-agency Advisory Group considered 20 pests nominated as possible candidates for National Interest Pest Responses
- Included 5 national programmes transferred to MAF from DOC.
- Recommended 11 pests be managed at a national level
- MAF accepted recommendation

National Interest Pest Responses

- The 11 pests in priority order:
  - Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*)
  - Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
  - Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*)
  - Cape tulip (*Moraea flaccida* (syn *Homeria collina*))
  - Pyp grass (*Ehrharta villosa*)
  - Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*)
  - Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

… continued

- Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)
- White bryony (*Bryonia cretica* subsp. *dioica*)
- Rainbow lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*)
- Manchurian wild rice (*Zizania latifolia*)

National Interest Pest Responses

- Responses with known impacts on forestry
  - Pyp grass
  - Manchurian wild rice
- MAF are working with forest owners and managers, and Regional Councils to control these pest plants

Pyp grass

Ehrharta villosa

- From South Africa
- Introduced in 1956
- Robust perennial grass
- Blue green in colour
- Woody rhizomatous roots

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Manchurian wild rice

Zizania latifolia

- Native of Asia
- Arrived over 100 years ago in ballast discarded on the banks of the Northern Wairoa River

Manchurian wild rice

- Forms dense stands, 3-4 metres high
- Spreads by thick rhizome, several metres deep
- Rhizomes can grow up to 10 metres from nearest shoot

- Main method of dispersal is through rhizome fragments on contaminated machinery
- Some sites are within production forest

- Logging and thinning activities likely to spread rhizome fragments
- Working with Forestry companies to minimise risk of spread