

CATHEDRAL BELLS

Cobaea scandens

Management programme

Exclusion	Eradication	Progressive containment	Sustained control	Site-led
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Impacts

Economic	Biodiversity	Soil resources	Water quantity/quality
Human health	Social and cultural wellbeing	Amenity/recreation	Animal welfare

Objectives

Reduce the level of infestation of cathedral bells to zero density in the Waikato region.

Why is it a pest?

Cathedral bells is a vigorous, fast growing perennial climber with stems to 10m long. Its long-lived vines can establish and grow along riverbanks, forest margins and roadsides, in shrubland, open areas, hedges, and shelterbelts. It forms a dense canopy over trees and shrubs that smothers native vegetation and prevents seedling establishment. Walls of cathedral bells vines can obstruct access to areas.

Cathedral bells can grow well under a range of environmental conditions including shade, drought, wind, salt, and differing soil types. It produces large numbers of viable seeds that can be dispersed by wind and water. However, new plants can also establish from stem fragments, and the plant is most often spread via dumping of garden waste or soil movement. It is currently largely restricted to sites adjacent to the Waikato River at Karāpiro and Ngāruawāhia, in Hamilton city, at Thames, Cooks Beach and Whangamatā on the Coromandel, and in the King Country near Te Mapara and Otorohanga.

Responsibility for control

Waikato Regional Council is responsible for the control of cathedral bells within the Waikato region. If you think you've seen it, call us – don't try to control it yourself.

- All persons shall inform Waikato Regional Council of the presence of cathedral bells in the Waikato region, within five working days of the presence first being suspected (rule NGB-1 of the *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022-2023*), and to liaise with the Waikato Regional Council in areas where control programmes are in place.
- If cathedral bells is present on a property that is to be subdivided or developed, there are additional rules and requirements that apply under section 6.6 of the RPMP 2022-2032.

Cathedral bells is banned from being sold, propagated, distributed, or included in commercial displays.



What does it look like?

Cathedral bells is a perennial woody vine.



Flower

- Bell-shaped flowers, 6cm-7cm long.
- Flowers are green and smelly when young, turning deep purple once they've shed their pollen.
- Flowers present December to May.



Fruit/seed

- Fruits are hard, oval green capsules (6cm-10cm long).
- Fruit ripens in autumn.
- Each capsule splits to release numerous flat, papery winged seeds.



Leaves/stems

- Consist of three pairs of oval leaflets, including a small pair at the leaf base.
- Each leaflet is about 4cm-12cm long by 2cm-5cm wide.
- Leaflets are dark green above, whitish underneath and have a brown stalk.
- Compound leaves are arranged alternatively along stems.
- Stems are purplish and angled, with hook-like branch tips.

He taiao mauriora ▲ **Healthy environment**

He hapori hihiri ▲ **Vibrant communities**

He ōhanga pakari ▲ **Strong economy**

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Waikato Regional Council biosecurity factsheet series

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Waikato
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Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato