

# WILDING CONIFER CONTROL IN OTAGO

Wilding Conifer  
Control  
**FUNDING  
AVAILABLE  
NOW**

## Wilding conifers – what’s the problem?

Wilding conifers (also known as wilding pines) are introduced conifer trees which have self-seeded and are growing where they are not wanted — they are the wrong tree in the wrong place.

Unlike commercial forests, wilding conifers pose a serious and increasing pest issue in New Zealand which, if left uncontrolled, threaten to permanently alter our ecosystems, landscapes, and farms, and impact on our economy.

Seeds from inappropriately located plantings or from existing wildings can be blown many kilometres by wind, spreading into farmland, our high country and public conservation land.

If not removed, seedlings can quickly grow into dense forests that out-compete native plants and animals, reduce water yield, limit productive land use, and severely alter natural landscapes. Wilding conifers may also increase the risk of wildfires and harbour diseases.

Managing wilding conifers can only be addressed through landowners, communities, industry, researchers, and local and central government working together.

To achieve the vision of the right tree in the right place, there is a role for all New Zealanders to be aware of this critical issue, and in taking action.

## The 10 main wilding conifer species are:

- Contorta pine (*Pinus contorta*)
- Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)
- Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra*)
- European larch (*Larix decidua*)
- Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*)
- Dwarf mountain pine (*Pinus mugo*)
- Maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*)
- Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)
- Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
- Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*)

**Download your wilding  
conifer identification  
guide here**





1998

2004

2015

Images showing how wilding conifers can spread if left unchecked – Mid Dome, Upper Tomogalak catchment, from 1998 to 2015. Image credit: Richard Bowman.

## National Wilding Conifer Control

In 2016 the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme was established to ensure a collaborative, coordinated and effective approach to national wilding management.

The delivery of the programme is led by Biosecurity New Zealand in partnership with regional councils and unitary authorities who coordinate the activities regionally and support a wide range of stakeholder groups and community groups.

The Programme is informed by the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030 and is supported by central government funding.

**Find out more about  
the National  
Programme here**



## Otago Wilding Conifer Control

Otago is divided into 17 management units (areas) for the purposes of controlling wilding conifers, with funding allocated to the management units where wildings are most prone to spreading.

Control work in each management unit is undertaken through a collaborative partnership between the Otago Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG) and Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group (CWG), with project managers overseeing landowner consultation, funding agreements and the contracting workforce delivering the ground or aerial operations.

Landowners are eligible, on a priority basis, to be included in the Programme where management units are funded.

Operations aim to prevent the spread of these tree pests throughout Otago and to progressively remove them from much of the land already invaded. This involves controlling seedlings and outlying trees and working back to the original seed source. Types of control methods include manual control like hand-weeding and cutting with chainsaws to aerial herbicide application.

Wilding conifers are a major problem in Otago, but we're making progress. By working together, the quicker we can get the problem under control.

## What can you do?

Preventing the spread of wilding conifers is one of the most important actions landowners can take to protect our region's unique landscapes, primary industry, tourism, and the economy from the impact of wilding conifers.

If you're a landowner and want to find out more about control work in your area or funding opportunities which may help with your wilding conifer problem, please get in touch with the Otago Regional Council or community wilding conifer control group nearest you.

## Contacts

**Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group (CWG)**  
Web: [www.centralwildingconifers.co.nz](http://www.centralwildingconifers.co.nz)

**Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG)**  
Web: [www.whakatipuwilding.co.nz](http://www.whakatipuwilding.co.nz)

**Otago Regional Council**  
Phone: 0800 474 082  
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Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**PREVENT  
THE SPREAD**  
National Wilding Conifer Control Programme

