



Lagarosiphon

Why is it a pest?

It's hard to spell and even harder to get rid of. Lagarosiphon was once sold as a pretty decoration for aquariums or ponds and is thought to have been accidentally introduced to our waterways through disposal into drains or ponds. It now causes trouble for our beautiful lakes.

Lagarosiphon is a fast-growing freshwater weed that spreads easily through pieces of stem being carried on water currents, boats, fishing gear, aquarium and pond waste, and deliberate plantings.

Once established, it:

- shades out and takes over aquatic native plants
- chokes and blocks water bodies
- affects water supply intakes
- interferes with recreational activities (swimming, boating, water-skiing, etc.)

Lagarosiphon is present in **Lakes Dunstan** and **Roxburgh** and parts of **Lake Wānaka**. It is also found in the **Clutha River/ Mata-Au**, **Kawarau River**, and **Pūerua River**. Isolated plants are regularly removed from **Frankton Arm** in Lake Whakatipu, which is thought to result from weed transfer by boats from other waterways in the region.

It spreads through the dispersal of stem fragments, either naturally by water movement or by human activity such as boating, fishing gear, machinery, aquarium and pond waste, and deliberate plantings.



What does it look like?

- **Size:** Can grow up to 5 metres long; its long, brittle stems forming dense mats when it reaches the water's surface.
- **Appearance:** The leaves are dark green with tiny, pointed edges. They are arranged spirally around the stem and curve backward or downward. In its native habitat, lagarosiphon produces tiny pinkish flowers; however, as there are only female plants in New Zealand, it does not flower or set seed here.
- **Distinctive features:** A submerged, bottom-rooted weed.
- **Habitat:** Found in still or slow-moving freshwater environments — lakes, ponds, canals, riverbanks, reservoirs, and similar habitats.

Common name:

Oxygen weed

Scientific name:

Lagarosiphon major

Management programme:

Site-led management

Site-led programmes have rules for specific pests that only apply in that area. Site-led areas have special biodiversity and other values to protect.

What are the rules?

Lagarosiphon is managed under a site-led programme in our Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029).

Head to orc.nz.maps.arcgis.com to see a map of the areas covered by the lagarosiphon site-led programme.

- Any person leaving the waters of lakes Dunstan, Wānaka or Roxburgh or the Clutha River/Mata-Au and the Kawarau River must immediately remove and safely dispose of all fragments of lagarosiphon from boats, equipment and all other items in their possession.
- Anyone in Otago must destroy and safely dispose of all lagarosiphon from any pond or aquarium on their land.



The goal of the Regional Pest Management Plan (2019-2029) for lagarosiphon is to:

- Reduce the amount of lagarosiphon in Lake Wānaka and the Kawarau River through progressive containment over the next 10 years.
- Keep the levels of lagarosiphon in Lake Dunstan at a stable level.
- Prevent lagarosiphon establishing in Lake Whakatipu.
- Prevent lagarosiphon establishing in lakes, rivers and tributaries where it is not already present.

What should I do?

Together with other stakeholders, we are working to curb the spread of lagarosiphon and have removed many tonnes since it was first spotted in our waterways in the early 1970s.

Make sure you don't spread any aquatic pests by following the Check, Clean, Dry method.

To prevent the spread of freshwater pests, including lagarosiphon, whenever you move between waterways you must check, clean and dry any equipment that comes into contact with water.

If you're out on the water, take a moment to:



CHECK

YOUR GEAR FOR STOWAWAY PESTS AND REMOVE THEM



CLEAN

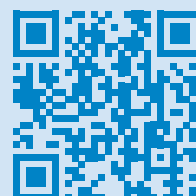
YOUR GEAR THOROUGHLY



DRY

IT FOR 48 HOURS BEFORE RELOCATING TO ANOTHER WATERWAY!

Check, Clean, Dry vastly reduces the risk of aquatic pests hitchhiking from one waterway to another aboard our vessels and gear.



For more information, visit orc.govt.nz/lagarosiphon