



# BECOME A PEST PLANT DETECTIVE

**Did you know?** The Auckland Region has over 700 species of introduced plants. Those that cause serious harm to the environment or economic loss are known as 'pest plants'. The edge of the reserve is very susceptible to invasive weeds and controlling them requires ongoing management. Can you spot any of these pest plants during your walk today?



## TRADESCANTIA *Tradescantia fluminensis*

Originally from South America. This weed spreads easily as even small fragments of the plant can quickly take root and reproduce, forming a dense mat of foliage. It smothers native vegetation, slowing the growth of mature plants and seedlings, and reducing forest biodiversity.



## WOOLY NIGHTSHADE *Solanum mauritianum*

Originally from South America. Can grow into a small tree up to 4m tall. Identifying features include grey/green leaves covered in furry hairs, clusters of purple flowers and round, yellow fruits. Can interfere with native plant regeneration and causes skin irritation and respiratory problems for people.



## WILD GINGER *Hedychium gardnerianum* and *H. flavescens*

Originally from South Africa. Identifying features include large green leaves and yellow or creamy yellow flowers growing up in spikes. Can interfere with native plant regeneration and may increase erosion and alter nutrient cycling within the soil.



## PAMPAS GRASS *Cortaderia jubata* and *C. sellonana*

Originally from South America. A large, clump-forming grass with fluffy flowerheads that range in colour from white and cream to pink and purple. Competes with the similar looking native toetoe and prevents other native plants regenerating. Can harbour pest mammals and create a fire hazard.



## NUTGRASS *Cyperus rotundus*

Originally from India. Identifying features include tall triangular stems with flowers borne on a few rays. Competes with native species in wetlands, stream margins and coastal areas.