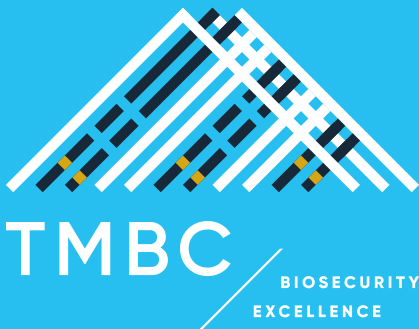


An introduction to some
**unwanted biosecurity pest,
plant and disease threats**
in the Bay of Plenty region



**TAURANGA
MOANA
BIOSECURITY
CAPITAL**

The following cards identify some of our region's biosecurity risks.* They are a mixture of biosecurity threats that are in New Zealand and ones we want to keep out. Should any of these get across our border or establish, they would be disruptive to our environment, our economy and even our way of life.

We all have a role in preventing pests and diseases from getting into New Zealand or helping stop their spread if they do get here.

The cards have been compiled by Tauranga Moana Biosecurity Capital Inc. (TMBC) in collaboration with Biosecurity New Zealand and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

TMBC is an Incorporated Society dedicated to changing how New Zealanders see biosecurity and encouraging everyday action. TMBC works in partnership with mana whenua, connecting communities and fostering collaboration across iwi, hapū, industry, government, science, and mātauranga Māori to achieve biosecurity excellence.



To find out more, go to **tmbiosecurity.co.nz**
or scan this QR code.

*The information was correct at June 2025.

A mat of exotic caulerpa seaweed on the seafloor near Aotea Great Barrier Island.
Photo: NIWA



EXOTIC CAULERPA

DESCRIPTION

Exotic caulerpa is the name used for two closely related pest seaweed species known to have been in New Zealand waters since at least 2021.

IMPACTS

- *Caulerpa brachypus* and can spread rapidly, forming large underwater fields.
- Exotic caulerpa covers more than 1,500 hectares (August 2024) of the upper North Island seabed.
- Exotic caulerpa can compete with other species for space and upset the balance of local ecosystems.

HOW IT SPREADS

Exotic caulerpa spreads by fragmentation. Even a small, broken-off piece can form a new plant. Fragments can be transported great distances if they get snagged on a boat anchor or fishing or dive gear.



EXOTIC CAULERPA

Exotic caulerpa can be recognised by its oar-shaped leaves. *Photo: Auckland Council*

Boaties are asked: before leaving a location check your vessel's anchor, chain and any equipment used in the water for any tangled seaweed. If you have an automatic retrieval system, still look out for any attached pieces of seaweed.

If you find any type of seaweed – remove it, bag or contain it securely so it can't get back into the water, and take it ashore for disposal in a rubbish bin.

If you can't securely contain it – put it back into the water it came from.

Report any sighting of suspected exotic caulerpa in a new location – check out biosecurity.govt.nz/caulerpa for known locations. Take a photo if possible and note the location. Report it to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or complete the online form at report.mpi.govt.nz

Exotic caulerpa is listed in the Exclusion programme of Bay of Plenty's Regional Pest Management Plan. For details search 'RPMP' at boprc.govt.nz



Waikato River – Bobs landing
Photo: T Burton

**EXOTIC FRESHWATER
CLAMS (CORBICULA)**

DESCRIPTION

Two related species of exotic freshwater clams have been found in the Waikato region.

- *Corbicula fluminea* (commonly known as ‘freshwater invasive clams’) is native to eastern Asia and is widely established in North and South America and Europe.
- *Corbicula australis* is native to Australia, where it is common and widely distributed.

IMPACTS

Corbicula are fast breeders and can reach extremely high densities in optimal conditions. They can produce 400 juveniles a day and up to 70,000 juveniles a year. This means they can clog water-based infrastructure, such as electricity generation plants, irrigation systems, and water treatment plants, and can also compete with native species for food and space.

Both are found in freshwater and are in highest abundance around the edges of lakes and rivers. They can survive a wide range of temperatures and can live in:

- lakes, and rivers down to where saltwater and freshwater mix.
- on top of, or buried in, a variety of substrates (for example, gravel, sand, or mud).
- high-oxygen waters.



EXOTIC FRESHWATER CLAMS (CORBICULA)

DON'T LET CLAMS HITCH A RIDE!

Freshwater weeds and pests like the invasive clam can spread through any human activity in lakes and rivers.

If you've recently visited a lake, river, stream, or wetland and plan to head to another, it's important to 'Check Clean Dry' your gear and your boat (including a kayak or paddleboard) to prevent harmful species from hitching a ride with you. Search 'Check Clean Dry' at boprc.govt.nz.

Report any sighting of suspected invasive freshwater clam in a new location. Take a photo if possible and note the location. Report it to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or complete the online form at report.mpi.govt.nz

Corbicula is listed in the Exclusion programme of Bay of Plenty's Regional Pest Management Plan. For details search 'RPMP' at boprc.govt.nz



MEDITERRANEAN FANWORM

(*SABELLA SPALLANZANII*)

DESCRIPTION

- Large, tube dwelling, aquatic worm, measuring up to 20mm wide and 800mm long.
- It has a prominent fan or crown of feeding tentacles that extend out of the tube and can be 150mm wide.
- This crown is often banded orange, purple, or white.
- The tubes are leathery, flexible, and muddy looking.

It can be mistaken for the New Zealand native fanworm. They can be differentiated as Mediterranean fanworm is larger, has a single fan or crown (rather than the two NZ species) and it is often banded.

IMPACTS

- Mediterranean fanworm form dense colonies that are likely to out-compete other species for food and space.
- It can form colonies of up to 1000 individuals per square metre.
- It is a highly effective filter feeder.
- In high densities is likely to impact commercially important species (mussels, oysters, scallops, etc).

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

- On hard sub-tidal structures and rock surfaces but also able to survive being buried up to 10cm in soft sediments. Prefers sites protected from wave action.
- Larvae may survive up to 20 days before settling permanently onto a suitable substrate. Can travel long distances on currents.
- Can be spread by vessels, primarily as hull fouling. Movement of infested aquaculture equipment or other marine structures may also contribute to spread.



MEDITERRANEAN FANWORM

(*SABELLA SPALLANZANII*)

It is important to ensure vessels are clean from invasive pests before entering the Bay of Plenty region. Mediterranean fanworm is a Notifiable Organism. If you find it, you must report it.

It is listed in the Progressive Containment programme of the Regional Council Regional Pest Management Programme.

If you spot Mediterranean fanworm in the Bay of Plenty, please take a good quality photograph and contact either the Bay of Plenty Regional Council on **0800 STOP PESTS (0800 786 773)** or report it to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66** or complete the online form at report.mpi.govt.nz

NOT
CURRENTLY
IN AOTEAROA



NORTHERN PACIFIC SEASTAR
(ASTERIAS AMURENSIS)

Photo: Ashley Coutts

DESCRIPTION

It has

- 5 arms.
- Pointed, often upturned purple tips.
- Yellow to orange colour, often with purple markings on top and yellow underneath.
- Arms covered with many small, irregularly-arranged, chisel-like spines.

It grows up to 24cm across but can reach 50cm. It often groups together in large numbers.

IMPACTS

- Voracious predator that feeds on a wide variety of other marine animals, including shellfish, crabs, worms, dead fish and even other sea stars.
- Fast breeder resulting in very large numbers.
- Could severely impact commercial important shellfish species (through predation).
- They are an aggressive predator that compete with native species for food and space, impacting taonga species and natural marine ecosystems.



NORTHERN PACIFIC SEASTAR (*ASTERIAS AMURENSIS*)

If you think you've found the Northern Pacific Seastar:

- take a photo and collect a sample if you can
- record the location and landmarks
- report it immediately to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66**.

Photo: Scott D. Ling



Photo: Serena Cox NIWA

ASIAN PADDLE CRAB
(*CHARYBDIS JAPONICA*)

DESCRIPTION

- Shell width up to 12cm. Similar in size to our native paddle crabs (up to 14cm).
- Variable colours; pale green, off-white with yellowish markings through to olive green to deep chestnut/purplish markings.
- Black tips of the pincers.
- It has six distinctive spines on each side of its shell below the eyes and five prominent spines on the upper surface of each claw.
- Flattened swimming paddles on back legs with colour varying between pale green, dark green, brown and purple.
- Can be found in low tide to 15m depth, in sand and mud and estuaries, harbours and most coastal habitats.

They are under Progressive Containment. Check BoPRC's website for more information - boprc.govt.nz/environment/pests/marine-pests/asian-paddle-crab/

IMPACTS

- Asian paddle crabs eat native shellfish, as well as commercially important shellfish species.
- They could severely impact commercial shellfish fisheries (through introduction of disease and predation).
- They are an aggressive predator that competes with native crabs for space and food, impacting taonga species and natural marine ecosystems.
- Females can produce multiple broods per year.

HOW THEY SPREAD

- The larvae can float in the water for three to four weeks, during which time they can move large distances by tides and currents.
- They can be spread across the country by attaching to boat hulls and hitchhiking as well as by larvae in ballast water.



ASIAN PADDLE CRAB

(*CHARYBDIS JAPONICA*)

If you spot an Asian paddle crab in the Bay of Plenty, please kill it, keep the sample and contact the Bay of Plenty Regional Council on **0800 STOP PESTS (0800 786 773)**.

Asian paddle crab is listed in the Progressive Containment programme of the Bay of Plenty's Regional Pest Management Programme. For details search 'RPMP' at boprc.govt.nz



Fall armyworm adult (male)

Photo: Lyle Buss, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

FALL ARMYWORM

(*SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA*)

DESCRIPTION

Adult fall armyworm moths have a wingspan of 3cm to 4cm, with brown-grey forewings and cream-coloured hind wings. Fall armyworm eggs are usually laid on the under surface of the leaves in a clustered mass of 100 to 200 eggs, which are covered in a layer of moth scales. Fall armyworm larvae - young larvae up to 9mm long are usually light green to brown, with a dark head capsule.



IMPACTS

Fall armyworm larvae feed on the leaves and stems of crops causing widespread damage. They have been found on over 350 plant species, preferring sweetcorn and maize.

HOW IT SPREADS

Adult fall armyworm moths are strong flyers and will travel hundreds of kilometres via wind. The larvae can also be spread in cut flowers, fruit, and vegetables.



If you think you spot fall armyworm in your vegetable garden or elsewhere on your property, talk to your local gardening supplier for advice on managing caterpillars and moths.

If you suspect fall armyworm on your farm, contact your crop manager or industry group for the actions to take and advice on the best management options for your crops.

Contact the Foundation for Arable Research (FAR) if you have any questions about the long-term management programmes for fall armyworm. You can email FAR at far@far.org.nz.

FALL ARMYWORM

(*SPODOPTERA FRUGIPERDA*)

Fall armyworm larva

Photo: Plant Health & Environment Laboratory, MPI

Larva on corn cob - *Photo: Ben Meehan*

**NOT
CURRENTLY
IN AOTEAROA**



**BROWN MARMORATED
STINK BUG (BMSB)**

DESCRIPTION

- Adult BMSB are a brown “shield” shape and about the size of a 10-cent coin.
- The easiest way to identify them is from the white bands on their antennae and alternating black and white markings on the abdomen. Its underside is a white/tan colour.
- Stink bug eggs are light green, shaped like barrels, and are usually in clusters of 20 to 30.



IMPACTS

BMSB threatens our economy as they attack a wide range of crops. They are also a household pest and can invade outdoor structures including marae and sheds.

HOW IT SPREADS

BMSB can hitchhike in luggage and deliveries. They can hide in cracks and crevices.



We do not currently have BMSB in New Zealand and want to keep it that way.

If you think you've found this exotic pest, capture it, take a photo and report it immediately to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG (BMSB)



**HIGH PATHOGEN AVIAN
INFLUENZA (HPAI)**

DESCRIPTION

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), also known as 'bird flu', is a contagious viral disease that affects domestic and wild birds.

IMPACTS

HPAI can harm a variety of bird species, including poultry flocks and wildlife. HPAI H5N1 could impact negatively on or pose risks to trade, food production, native biodiversity and human health. Avian influenza is a zoonotic disease, which means there is the possibility it can spread between animals and to people.

HOW IT SPREADS

HPAI H5N1 is spread through the movement of birds across large geographic regions and by direct contact between infected and healthy birds.



The most obvious sign of HPAI H5N1 is sudden death in several birds. Other signs can include weakness, tremors, paralysis, difficulty breathing, lack of coordination, blindness, trembling, and diarrhoea.

Poultry show more severe signs than wild birds. These include lethargy, reduced appetite, droopy head, darkened or swollen comb/wattle, panting, nasal secretions, unusual drop in egg production, and bleeding disorders.

Reporting avian influenza

If you see 3 or more sick or dead wild birds in a group, report it immediately to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66. Do not handle or move the birds.

Provide as much detail as you can, including the location, species name and estimate of the numbers affected.

HIGH PATHOGEN AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)



Dama wallaby

Photo: Dale Williams, Bay of Plenty, Regional Council

WALLABIES

DESCRIPTION

Introduced pest wallabies have been spreading and are costing New Zealand millions of dollars every year. Wallaby species in New Zealand include

- Bennett's wallaby
- Dama wallaby
- Parma wallaby
- Brush-tailed rock wallaby
- Swamp wallaby

To find out about each species' size, colour, social behaviour, reproduction, gestation period and times of the year they give birth, visit doc.govt.nz and search 'Wallabies: Animal pests'.

SOME FIELD SIGN

- In areas of sand or soft soil, the long narrow hind feet, and occasionally the tail, leave a characteristic track.
- Their pellets (poo) are also distinctive, slightly larger than an individual deer pellet and often tear-drop shaped.

IMPACTS

Wallabies are browsing herbivores that prefer young plants and seedlings.

Their browsing reduces forest understorey, affecting regeneration and altering native habitats.

They damage riparian plantings and commercial pine and eucalyptus seedlings.

On farms, they compete with livestock for feed, foul pasture, damage crops and fences, and contribute to erosion and water quality issues.



Brush tailed
rock wallaby

WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

Wallabies are shy, nocturnal and elusive. They normally shelter in dense forest or scrub during the day and come out at dusk to feed, then disappear before sunrise.

The Bay of Plenty pest wallaby population is under a mix of Exclusion and Progressive Containment and eradication.

You can help stop wallaby spread. Report wallaby signs, sightings or culls to www.reportwallabies.nz Learn more at mpi.govt.nz/wallabies.

WALLABIES



**THE PATHOGEN THAT KILLS
KAURI TREES: *PHYTOPHTHORA
AGATHIDICIDA* (PA)**

DESCRIPTION

Kauri are threatened by a soil-borne pathogen called *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA for short), which is too small to be seen by the naked eye.

IMPACTS

The PA pathogen infects Kauri trees through their roots and restricts their ability to transport water and nutrients between their roots and their leaves. This causes the condition known scientifically as kauri dieback disease, which eventually starves the Kauri.

Physical symptoms of PA pathogen infection include yellowing leaves, a thinning canopy, dead branches and bleeding gum. There is no proven cure for Kauri infected with PA and there are limited treatment options.

To stop the PA pathogen from spreading we need to follow correct hygiene protocols when moving and working around Kauri. The PA pathogen can be spread by footwear, clothing or equipment that touches the soil, vehicles that have driven through infected areas, and animals, including wild pigs and stock, that have walked through infected areas.

TOGETHER WE CAN PROTECT KAURI

As part of the National Plan to ensure that Kauri continue to thrive for future generations, 10 rules are now in place to help protect Kauri from the PA pathogen. These rules apply to anyone who grows Kauri, goes into Kauri forests, or lives or works around Kauri. For more information visit www.kauriprotection.co.nz/national-plan/growing-kauri

If you are visiting a Kauri forest area:

- Clean your footwear so it is dirt-free before you enter and leave.
- Stay on wooden or gravel tracks, or gravel roads, where you are not touching the forest floor.
- Use all hygiene stations you come across to clean your footwear.

PA is listed in the Exclusion programme of Bay of Plenty's Regional Pest Management Plan. For details search 'RPMP' at boprc.govt.nz



**THE PATHOGEN THAT KILLS
KAURI TREES: *PHYTOPHTHORA
AGATHIDICIDA* (PA)**

If you think you have come across symptoms, report these to Bay of Plenty Regional Council on 0800 884 880 or info@boprc.govt.nz



MYRTLE RUST

(*AUSTROPUCCINIA PSIDII*)

DESCRIPTION

Myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the myrtle family. Look out for symptoms of myrtle rust, including:

- bright yellow powdery eruptions appearing on the underside of the leaf (young infection)
- bright yellow powdery eruptions on both sides of the leaf (mature infection)
- some leaves may become buckled or twisted and die off
- also look out for yellow pustules on flowers and fruit.



IMPACTS

Myrtle rust affects native myrtle plants in New Zealand like pōhutukawa and rātā, mānuka and kānuka, ramarama, and swamp maire. It also impacts some common exotic garden plants like bottlebrush, guava and lilly pilly and can infect species such as feijoa and eucalyptus. Myrtle rust can impact the ability of the plant to reproduce. It has spread across the North Island and some of the South Island, including Christchurch.

HOW IT SPREADS

Myrtle rust spreads easily through wind, insects, birds, machinery, and even people.

It is important to understand where myrtle rust has spread to and where it is active. If you suspect you have found the disease:

- Take a clear in-focus photograph and submit the photograph to iNaturalist: <https://inaturalist.nz>.
- Make sure you label your finds as myrtle rust, noting what host plant it has been found on. This supports New Zealand researchers to track and understand the disease.

Further practical resources are available on the myrtle rust website, including management, training and identification - myrtlerust.org.nz

MYRTLE RUST

(*AUSTROPUCCINIA PSIDII*)

*Photos: Department of Conservation
(Te Papa Atawhai)*



Photo: Carolyn Lewis

WOOLLY NIGHTSHADE
(*SOLANUM MAURITIANUM*)

DESCRIPTION

- Woolly nightshade is a spreading, shrub or small tree which grows up to 10m tall.
- All parts of the plant are covered in short dusty hairs, and have whitish, branching, soft-woody stems.
- It has dense clusters of mauve to purple flowers during the warmer months, followed by clusters of round berries that ripen from green to dull yellow.
- Leaves have a strong astringent kerosene-like smell especially when rubbed or crushed.

Photos: Trevor James



WOOLLY NIGHTSHADE

(SOLANUM MAURITIANUM)

IMPACTS

Woolly nightshade flowers continuously during the warmer months, producing lots of seeds and forming dense stands that can quickly crowd out all other plants. The dust from the leaves and stems can irritate the skin, eyes, nose, and throat and if eaten, the berries are poisonous to humans, cattle and pigs.

HOW IT SPREADS

Birds can safely eat the berries and then spread the seeds long distances. Once seeds germinate, they grow quickly, and seedlings established in summer can produce viable seeds by autumn in the same year.

Landowners/occupiers are responsible for the management of woolly nightshade in the Bay of Plenty Region. For specific details on the rules and responsibilities, see the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan (search 'RPMP' at boprc.govt.nz).

When handling plants, the use of gloves and a mask is advised. Young plants can easily be pulled out by hand and spraying using a mix of triclopyr/picloram for a group of small plants is recommended. For large plants cut the plant to as close to the ground and use a cut & paste herbicide to kill the roots. Controlling very large infestations is difficult but spraying using a helicopter or drone can be a good solution in the right places.



Photo: Trevor James

MOTH PLANT
(*ARAUJIA HORTORUM*)

DESCRIPTION

- Moth plant is a very fast growing, evergreen vine with a smelly, milky sap and twining flexible stems.
- Its dark green leaves are hairless and are greyish-downy underneath.
- It has clusters of small 2-3 bell shaped white flowers (December to May), occasionally with pink streaks, that are followed by distinctive thick, leathery, pear shaped choko-like pods (Autumn - Winter).
- Pods contain kapok-like pulp which splits open to disperse many black, thistle-down like seeds.

IMPACTS

Each moth plant pod produced contains thousands of seeds that can travel long distances on the wind. Butterflies feeding on the flowers can die from starvation due to their feeding parts becoming gummed up.

The vine grows rapidly forming large, heavy mats in the canopy of trees, smothering existing plants and preventing the establishment of new ones. Moth plant sap is poisonous and can be a skin irritant.

Photos: Trevor James



Landowners/occupiers are responsible for the control of moth plant which is listed as Sustained Control and managed under Rule 5a.

It's important to pick and destroy ripe pods first as they can continue to ripen even once the vine has been cut. Pods should be incinerated, buried deeply or disposed of at a refuse station.

When handling plants the use of gloves and a mask is advised. Smaller plants can be pulled out by hand. Make sure their roots are no longer in contact with the soil. Larger vines can be sprayed from summer to autumn, or alternatively cut the plant as close to the ground and use a cut & paste herbicide to kill the roots.

MOTH PLANT
(*ARAUJIA HORTORUM*)

**NOT
CURRENTLY
IN AOTEAROA**

*Photo: Darryl Herron and FABI@UP –
Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute*

PINE PITCH CANKER

DESCRIPTION

- Pine pitch canker is a disease caused by a fungus.
- The wood under affected bark is amber-coloured and resin-soaked.
- Branches die back, leaving brown needles.

HOW IT SPREADS

Contaminated seeds are the most likely way this fungus could arrive in New Zealand. Biosecurity New Zealand has strict measures in place to limit the chances of pine pitch canker making it through the border.

IMPACTS

This fungus causes dieback in pine trees, including radiata pine, which is central to our forestry industry. The disease can kill seedlings and cause adult trees to lose their entire canopy.



We do not have pine pitch canker in New Zealand and want to keep it that way. Report suspected cases. If you've found unusual dieback in pines, photograph it, note location and any landmarks and report it to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66 or complete the online form at report.mpi.govt.nz

PINE PITCH CANKER

Photo: Darryl Herron and FABI@UP –
Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute



QUEENSLAND AND ORIENTAL FRUIT FLIES

(*BACTROCERA DORSALIS* AND *BACTROCERA TRYONI*)

DESCRIPTION

Adult Oriental fruit flies (OFF)

- Are a little larger than a housefly (6 mm to 8 mm long).
- Have a dark “T” shaped marking on the abdomen (the part behind the waist).
- Usually have a bright yellow and orange abdomen (but can vary).
- Have clear wings.
- The thorax (behind the head) is dark or near black with 2 near parallel yellow thin strips running down each side of the thorax.

IMPACTS

Fruit flies are the horticulture industry’s most unwanted biosecurity threat. Any incursion can severely impact where we sell our fruit and vegetables. The high-risk period for fruit flies is September to June.

HOW THEY SPREAD

The QFF and OFF can only get to New Zealand in fruit infested with eggs or maggots. Biosecurity New Zealand has strict measures in place to limit the chances of the fly making it through the border.

Adult Queensland fruit flies (QFF)

- Are a little larger than a housefly (6 mm to 8 mm long).
- Abdomen generally red brown with lateral dark markings (but can vary).
- Have clear wings.
- The thorax (behind the head) is red brown sometimes with darker markings with 2 near yellow thin narrowing strips running down each side of the thorax towards the abdomen.



QUEENSLAND AND ORIENTAL FRUIT FLIES

(*BACTROCERA DORSALIS* AND *BACTROCERA TRYONI*)

You can play your part too.

It can be difficult to spot these tiny flies on fruit so keep an eye out for larvae inside fruit – they look like grains of rice.

If you are travelling back into New Zealand, always declare any fruit and vegetables in your luggage. These pests are not established in New Zealand, and we want to keep it that way

if you think you’ve seen it – report it immediately to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.



ROOKS
(*CORVUS FRUGILEGUS*)

DESCRIPTION

- Rooks are large, glossy, purplish-black birds with a prominent, powerful bill. As they mature, they develop a greyish-white patch of scaly skin around the base of their pale beak.
- They have a distinct, harsh 'kaah' or 'caw' call.
- An average rook weighs around 400 grams and is 45cm long.
- Rooks are highly gregarious birds and establish permanent breeding rookeries which they maintain for many years. They prefer to nest in mature *Pinus radiata* or *Eucalyptus* shelter belts where there is a clear view of approaching danger.

IMPACTS

Rooks can cause significant damage to crops such as emerging maize, pumpkins, potatoes and walnut trees. They can also tear up pasture when searching for grubs, exposing soil to wind erosion. The damage caused by rooks is like that caused by pigs searching for food.



ROOKS
(*CORVUS FRUGILEGUS*)

Rooks can very easily be scared off, so it is important that people report rook sightings immediately to Bay of Plenty Regional Council rather than attempting to shoot them. Disturbance can break up populations and make effective control difficult.

Rooks are listed in the Eradication programme of the Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan. If you think you have seen a rook please contact the Bay of Plenty Regional Council immediately on 0800 STOP PESTS with the following information:

- Date and time sighted.
- Location of where it was sighted (if possible, mark on a map or provide GPS waypoint).
- The number of rooks seen.
- What they were doing (flying, feeding or roosting)
 - If flying, what direction were they headed.
 - If feeding, can you tell what they are feeding on (e.g. following a plough feeding on grubs).
 - If roosting, are they using the roost trees regularly.



To find out more, go to tmbiosecurity.co.nz
or scan this QR code.

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