

# RED ALERT — MOTH PLANT!

Committee members have noticed, reported on and removed moth plant seedlings and pods from the Waiwhakaiho area of the city over the past few years.

However, another moth plant infestation was observed in Bracken Street, Westown (below) on 1 July. It has been reported to the regional council and will be removed but *we do not want this weed to spread!*

Stop press!



## What is moth plant?

Moth plant is an evergreen vine with pungent, milky sap that irritates skin and is poisonous.

It can grow to 10 m tall and is long-lived, fast-growing and shade-tolerant. It forms dense, heavy, smothering masses that overtop and strangle its host plants. It produces clusters of bell-shaped white/pink flowers that trap moths (hence the name!) and turn into choko-like pods that contain thousands of thistle-down like seeds.

You must not breed, distribute, release or sell moth plant.

## If you see moth plant —

- If you cannot remove it yourself, please report it. If it is on private property, report to the TRC or, if it is on public land, to NPDC.
- If you are able to, dig it out or cut it off at the base and paste with a herbicide gel.
- Dispose of pods with care — you don't want to accidentally spread them. Burning is a good option if it is available to you.

RIGHT: Pretty but poisonous flowers cruelly trap moths and insects, and pods that spread untold quantities of seed.

