Dally pine

Psoralea pinnata

www.weedbusters.org.nz

Family
Fabaceae (legume)

Where is it originally from?
South Africa

What does it look like?
Evergreen short-lived shrub (<2 m, occasionally <5 m) with erect, much-branched, soft-woody stems that are hairy and ribbed when young. Leaves (15-40 mm long) are each divided into 2-4 opposite pairs of leaflets and a terminal leaflet, all similar to pine needles. Solitary or small clusters of pea-like blue-white or mauve-white flowers (13 mm diameter, Nov-Jan) are followed by hairless, wrinkled seed pods (4-5 mm long) each containing one dark brown seed.

Photo: Trevor James

Are there any similar species?
Often mistaken for young pine trees.

Why is it weedy?
Produces many, long-lived seeds, and fire stimulates germination. Nitrogen fixer that thrives in poor and moderate soils. Tolerates low or high rainfall, salt, wind, hot temperatures, damage and grazing, but is only partially shade-tolerant. Tolerates a wide range of growing conditions, and because it can fix nitrogen, it changes the type of plants which can grow in any area that it has colonised.

Photo: Trevor James

How does it spread?
Mostly by soil disturbance and water movement, and possibly by livestock or birds. Roadsides, quarries, wasteland, poor pasture, exotic plantations, and gardens are all common seed sources.

What damage does it do?
Dominates low canopy habitats, delaying (occasionally preventing) the establishment of native plant seedlings. Increased nitrogen in gumlands and other impoverished soil types may change the species that are present and resulting change in habitat may be to the detriment of specialised plants eg. orchids, ferns, herbs, etc, or encourage further weed invasions. Can replace manuka in successional process.

Photo: Carolyn Lewis

Which habitats is it likely to invade?
Gumlands, dry shrubland, coastline, estuaries, bush tracks, forest margins, and fernland, especially in warmer areas.

What can I do to get rid of it?
1. Physical removal: Pull out small plants and leave to rot on site.
2. Cut and paste: Cut the stem/trunk as close to the ground as possible and cover the entire stump with herbicide as soon as possible after cutting. Apply metsulfuron gel (10g/L strength) or picloram gel (43g/l strength) to the entire cut stem.
3. Foliar spray application: Apply triclopyr herbicide (600g/L active ingredient) at a rate of 6ml/L plus 2.5ml/L organosilicone wetter, such as Pulse Penetrant, to thoroughly wet all parts of plant. Note: Triclopyr is 'grass friendly' but overspray will kill other (desirable) broadleaf plants. Do not use over water bodies or wetlands and use only as directed on label.
CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and directions for the purchase, use and storage of the product, are followed and adhered to.

What can I do to stop it coming back?
Cut stems resprout. Never use fire as a management tool. In regenerating bush habitats over 4 m this plant is normally succeeded by tall-growing native species. Where plant is dense (ie. no native species present), possibly encourage

regeneration with partial and selective control methods. Control in low-growing habitats and vector corridors (quarries, roadsides, etc).