

# Velvet groundsel

*Roldana petasitis*

## Family

Asteraceae (daisy)

## Also known as

*Senecio petasitis*

## Where is it originally from?

Mexico

## What does it look like?

Forms a large, much-branched shrub (<2.5 m high and wide). Large, soft leaves (10-20 cm diameter) are rounded in shape with slightly undulating edges. Both the upper and lower surfaces are covered in short hairs, giving them a velvety texture. Large clusters of small, yellow, daisy-like flowers, with a brownish-yellow centre (Jul-Nov) are followed by fluffy seed heads.

## Why is it weedy?

Forms dense cover and stems take root where they touch the ground, forming new plants, developing into a dense thicket.

## How does it spread?

Spread via windborne seed and dumped garden waste to localised wild areas near towns and into forest margins. Stems take root where they touch the ground, forming new plants.

## What damage does it do?

Spreads easily, forms new plants from stems, and shades out and suppresses native species and other desirable plants.

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Forest margins, bush remnants, wetlands.

## What can I do to get rid of it?

1. Pull up small plants when not in seed.
2. Cut larger plants back to ground level and paint stumps with picloram gel. Dispose of all plant material at a refuse transfer station.

## What can I do to stop it coming back?

Check after six months for reseedling. Replant the area with dense cover to shade out germinating seedlings.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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