

Sea lavender

Limonium companyonis

Family Plumbaginaceae



Identification

- Strong tap-root system.
- **Leathery green** leaves arranged in a **rosette**.
- Small, purple/pink flowers arranged on a flowering stalk, held well above the leaves.
- **Flowers** look very similar to **garden statice** flowers, **though smaller**.



Photo: K. McCombs



Statice-like flowers Photo: K. McCombs

Why is it a problem?

Sea lavender grows in clumps eventually spreading out to form a dense mat. It crowds out existing native plant species and prevents native species from establishing.

Control

Dig the plants out at **small** sites, taking care to remove the entire tap root. Dispose of them at a landfill.

Where is it found?

Sea lavender grows in salt marshes, and elsewhere in dry conditions. It is found in Christchurch, growing in the salt marshes of the Heathcote River. It has the potential to be found in salt marsh environments throughout the Canterbury region.

Status

Sea lavender has no formal pest status. It has recently been found in the Heathcote River, and the Christchurch City Council (CCC) are attempting to eradicate this species before it spreads too far and becomes too difficult to control. Please report all sightings to the CCC.



Sea lavender taking over a saltmarsh environment. Photo: K. McCombs