

Pig's ear

Cotyledon orbiculata



Identification

- A succulent
- Leaves are opposite; powdery grey-green with red margins
- Clusters of orange, bell-shaped drooping flowers about 2.5 cm in length on stalks 60 cm tall



Single pig's ear plant Photo: Jon Sullivan



Cross-section of a pig's ear flower Photo: Jon Sullivan

Where is it found?

Pig's ear used to be sold in the nursery trade so can be found in home gardens. It has jumped the garden fence and naturalised in mainly coastal areas.

Why is it a problem?

Pig's ear competes with and replaces native species in coastal environments and can be poisonous to stock. It is spread by seed and plant fragments.

Status

Pig's ear has been declared an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993, which makes it illegal to knowingly release, spread, display or sell, breed, propagate or otherwise distribute plants or part thereof.

Control

There is limited information on controlling this pest. Trials by Christchurch City Council have found Grazon™ at gorse rates with Boost™ penetrant was effective.

Use all herbicides in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and ensure no herbicide comes into contact with other plants, the soil or waterways.



Pig's ear in flower Photo: S. Timmins (DOC)