



# Canterbury wilding conifer rules

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Wilding conifers severely alter natural landscapes, and in parts of Canterbury they are the most significant threat to our indigenous biodiversity.

They compete with native plants for sunlight, use up precious water resources and create a fire hazard.

Introduced conifer seeds can be blown several kilometers, quickly leading to new infestations that pose significant costs to production. Prior to the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme it was estimated that wilding conifers were increasing at an additional 90,000 hectares per year. Without intervention, more than 20% of New Zealand could have been covered with wilding conifers within 20 years.

## The Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan

As part of the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme, Environment Canterbury is working with the Ministry for Primary Industries, landowners and the community to remove wilding conifers from the Canterbury region.

Rules set out in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan explain future land occupier responsibility to manage wilding conifers, pest conifers and pest agent conifers. These rules change depending on different situations.

To consider which control rule applies, and occupiers need to consider:

1. what control operations have been completed
2. how control operations were funded
3. distance to the boundary
4. tree species on the property.

The following scenarios in this document explain who is responsible to manage wilding conifers to prevent re-infestation on the property. Please refer to the glossary at the end of this document for a description of terms used. To view the full Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan, please visit [ecan.govt.nz/pestmanagement](https://ecan.govt.nz/pestmanagement)

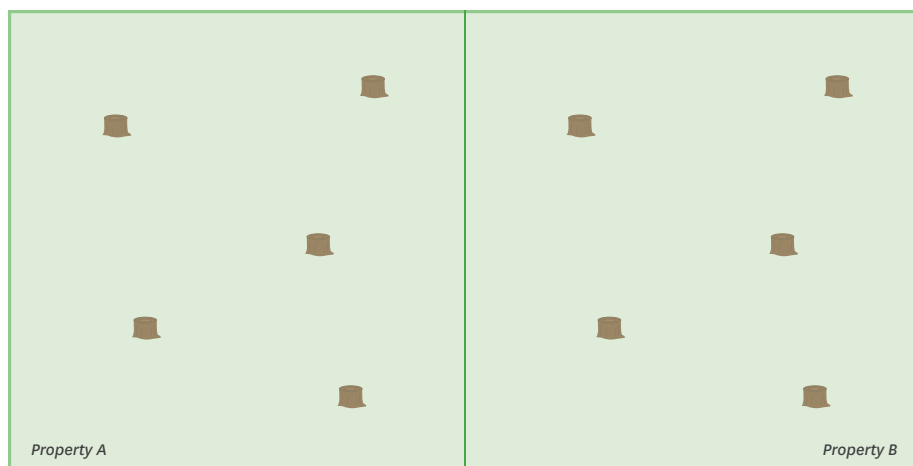
There are different rules for managing wilding conifer forest and plantation forests. For example, all plantation forestry operations are regulated by the National Environment Standard for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF) and are not subject to the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan.

### Rule: 6.3.1

#### Scenario

Both Property A and B have had control operations to destroy wilding conifers or pest conifers through publicly funded work (eg the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme) since 1 July 2016.

**Responsibility:** Both Property A and B must destroy all emerging wilding conifers before they reach coning age



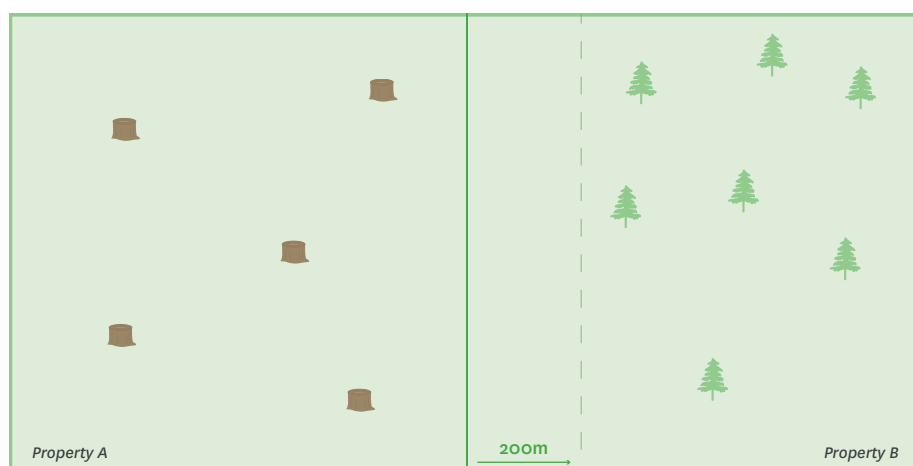
Land occupiers are required to comply with rules 6.3.2 - 6.3.4 on receipt of a written direction from a person authorised under the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

### Rule: 6.3.2

#### Scenario

**Property A:** has had control operations to destroy wilding conifer and pest conifers since 1 July 2016.

**Property B:** wilding conifer, pest conifer and pest agent conifer do not currently occur within 200m of the property boundary.



**Responsibility:** The land occupier of **Property B** must destroy wilding conifers, pest agent conifers and pest conifers within 200m of the boundary with Property A (if present) .

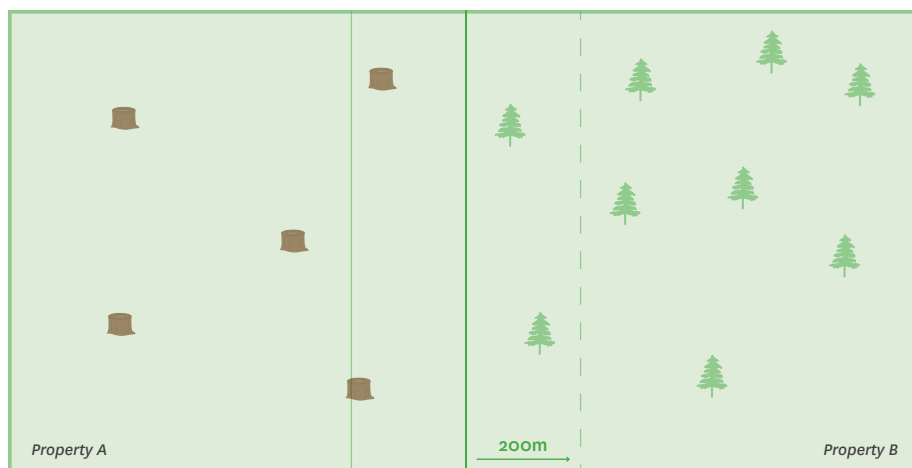


## Rule: 6.3.3 – Good neighbour rule

### Scenario

**Property A:** has had control operations to destroy wilding conifer and pest conifer species since 1 July 2016.

**Property B:** has had no control operations, and has wilding conifers and pest conifer species present within 200m of the property boundary.



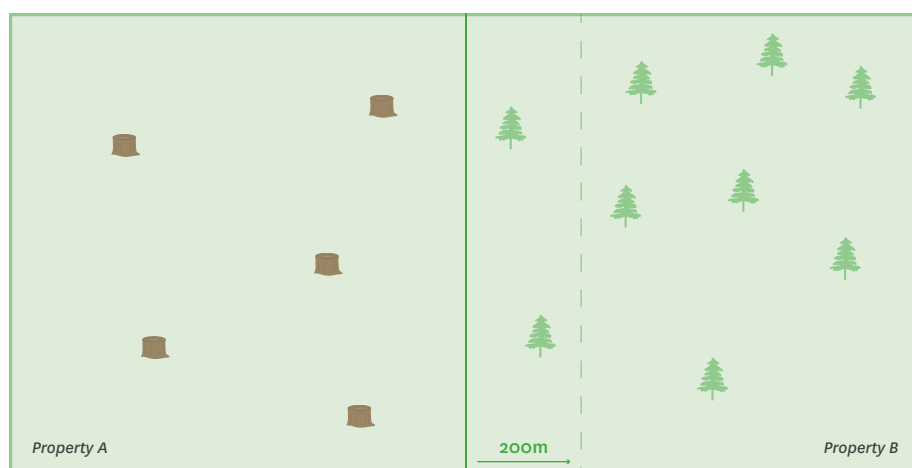
**Responsibility:** The land occupier of **Property B** must destroy wilding conifers and pest conifers (see glossary for full species list) within 200m of the boundary with Property A. Land occupiers must also clear pest agent conifers, where they don't occur as a plantation forest.

## Rule: 6.3.4 – Pest agent

### Scenario

**Property A:** has had control operations to destroy wilding conifers and planted conifer species through publicly funded work since 1 July 2016.

**Property B:** has had no control operations, and has wilding conifers and pest agent conifers present within 200m of the property boundary.



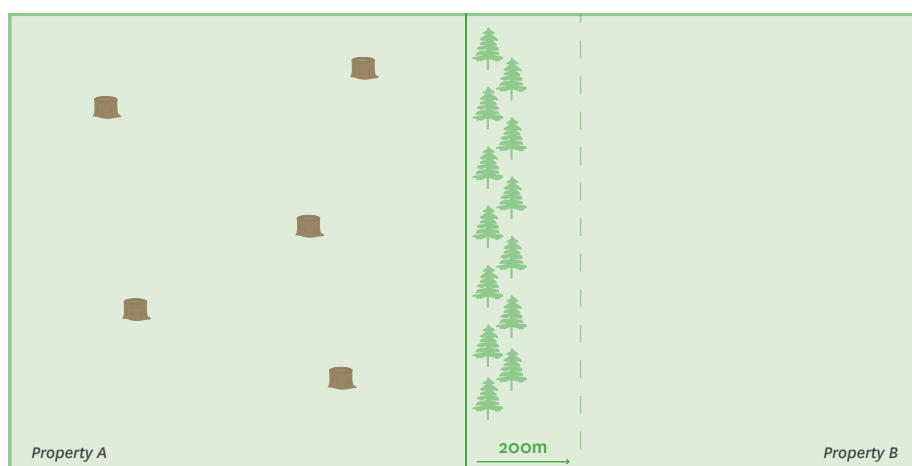
**Responsibility:** The land occupier of **Property B** must destroy wilding conifers and pest conifers within 200m of the boundary with Property A. Pest agent conifers (excluding within a plantation forest) must also be destroyed within 200m of the property boundary.

## Rule: 6.3.4 – Pest agent

### Scenario

**Property A:** has had control operations to destroy wilding conifers and planted conifer species through publicly funded work since 1 July 2016.

**Property B:** has a shelter belt of pest conifer or pest agent conifer species within 200m of the property boundary.



**Responsibility:** **Property B** must destroy pest conifer or pest agent conifer within 200m of the boundary with Property A.



## Glossary of terms

**Wilding conifers**, also known as wilding pines, are self-seeded and establish naturally. Often their seeds are blown many kilometres by the wind.

Wilding conifers are introduced conifer trees that include, but are not limited to, any of the conifer species listed in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan.

**Pest conifers** are contorta, Corsican, Scots, mountain and dwarf mountain pines and larch, which are all declared pest species in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan. It is illegal to plant these species, and they must be controlled within the rules of the Plan.

Wilding conifers often occur because of seed spread from planted pest conifer species.

**Pest Agent Conifer** refers to any introduced conifer species capable of helping the spread of wilding conifers and is not otherwise specified as a pest in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan and is not located within a plantation forest. These species may aid wilding conifers by creating favourable conditions for growth.

**Plantation forest** refers to a forest deliberately planted for commercial purposes that is covered with at least one hectare of trees that can grow to at least five metres tall at maturity.

**If you have any questions about wilding conifers, please contact our biosecurity team via 0800 324 636 or email [biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz)**