



Fo-Ti (*Fallopia multiflora*)

THE THREAT: Fo-Ti, an Asian knotweed can seriously affect our native plants and forests by killing plants through smothering them.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT THIS PEST?

Fo-Ti (also known as Fleece Flower or He Shou Wu) is a rapidly growing perennial bushy vine that can smother other plants, including trees. It could impact forestry, orchards and nurseries and become a serious problem in your home garden.

It can regenerate quickly from small plant fragments and can spread via contaminated gardening tools and machinery such as lawnmowers.

This pest may be shared by people among the community who grow the plant for traditional medicinal purposes and are not aware of the problems associated with Fo-Ti. However, imported traditional Chinese medicinal products with Fo-Ti can be purchased legally from stores without endangering our environment.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

Fo-Ti is currently known at one location in Auckland only, but may be elsewhere. There is potential for the pest plant to establish throughout New Zealand as it can tolerate a variety of conditions.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

This herbaceous vine readily climbs over other plants or structures and can grow to heights of 2–4 metres. Stems are pale green to red in colour and leaves are from 3–7 cm in length and 2–5 cm wide. Flowers are small (6–7 mm diameter), white or greenish-white and arranged on branched stems 10–20 cm long.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFO?

Check out the MPI webpage for Fo-Ti:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/Fo-Ti> or talk to Auckland Council Biosecurity on (09) 301 0101 for advice.

HOW TO HELP IF YOU FIND THIS PLANT:

Contact MPI's free 24-hour pest and disease hotline 0800 80 99 66

Please do not attempt to control this pest plant yourself.



Fo-Ti infestation.



Fo-Ti stems are pale green to red in colour.



Fo-Ti post-flowering. Flowers are white/greenish-white and arranged on branched stems as seen above.