

# 12. Wilding conifers



## What are wilding conifers?

Conifers have cones instead of flowers. A wilding conifer is an introduced tree that is self-sown and growing where it is not wanted. These conifers have little value as timber, and take over areas where native plants and animals are naturally found.

The ten wilding conifers are: Lodgepole/contorta pine, European larch, Dwarf mountain pine, Corsican pine, Maritime pine, Ponderosa pine, Scots pine, Bishops pine, Radiata pine and Douglas fir.

## Why are wilding conifers a problem for NZ?

These pest plants take over landscapes. They change the soil and block the light, stopping native seedlings growing. When wilding conifers take over a landscape, the land is no longer suited to native animals or plants.

Without rapid action wilding conifers will infest 20% of New Zealand within 20 years



## How do I know it's a wilding conifer?

There are ten different wilding conifers. These all have different features and can be difficult to recognize. For more information on how to spot wilding conifers, see: [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

## How do they spread?

When the cones of conifers open, they spread their seeds through the wind. The seeds can travel a good distance and are not fussy about where they grow.

Wilding conifers come from a variety of places including Europe and North America.



For more detailed information about wilding conifers and how to control its spread see: [doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)