



From ornamental to detrimental: the causes and consequences of the invasion of New Zealand by non-native plants

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New Zealand has more types of non-native plants than almost anywhere in the world.

Many of these species pose significant economic and environmental costs yet all signs point to the problem growing in the future.

Using our recent research as background I explore the history of plant invasions in New Zealand and examine the underlying causes and potential future trends. Some of these invasive plants have been introduced as commercial crops such as pine and pasture grasses, and some have come in as ornamentals from around the world.

While new imports are screened at the border, New Zealand faces a threat from the 30,000 or so varieties already grown here in our gardens and sometimes it takes up to 100 years before the invaders jump the garden fence and become a problem.

In this talk we'll explore the many tools available to control future threats, looking at the role of botanic gardens in both the spread and management of invasive weeds, and consider how both the government and public can be more effective in preventing and controlling the plant invaders.

Thursday 11 August | 6:00pm
Archway 4 Lecture Theatre | Union Street East
Everyone welcome

