

34 Wilding Exotic Trees

34.1 Purpose

The purpose of these provisions is to prevent the spread of wilding exotic trees. Wilding is the term used for the natural regeneration or seedling spread of exotic trees, occurring in unintended locations and not managed for forestry production.

The District values and relies on its distinctive landscapes, open spaces and rural productive land for its social, cultural and economic wellbeing. Wilding trees are spreading across parts of the District and have visually degraded parts of the landscape, biodiversity values and can threaten the productive values of the soil resource, and reduce water yield. The spread of wilding trees has left other areas vulnerable to landscape and biodiversity degradation.

The Council manages existing wilding trees through the non-statutory document, 'The Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Strategy'. The District Plan also has a role in reducing the potential for wilding tree spread by controlling the planting of wilding potential species.

34.2 Objective and Policies

34.2.1 Objective – Protection of the District's landscape, biodiversity, water and soil resource values from the spread of wilding exotic trees.

Policy

- 34.2.1.1 Avoid the further spread of identified wilding tree species by prohibiting the planting of identified species.
- 34.2.1.2 Ensure that any planting and ongoing management of Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) is effective and can be practicably managed to avoid the adverse effects of the spread of wilding trees and degradation to the landscape.
- 34.2.1.3 That any proposal for the planting and ongoing management of Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) shall consider the following to ensure the spread of wilding trees can be contained:
 - a. The location and potential for wilding take-off, having specific regard to the slope and exposure to wind;
 - b. The surrounding land uses and whether these would reduce the potential for wilding spread;
 - c. The ownership of the surrounding land and whether this would constrain the ability to manage wilding spread;
 - d. Whether management plans are proposed for the avoidance or containment of wilding spread;
 - e. Whether a risk assessment has been completed and the results are favourable to the proposal.

34.3 Other Provisions and Rules

34.3.1 District Wide

Attention is drawn to the following District Wide chapters.

1 Introduction	2 Definitions	3 Strategic Direction
4 Urban Development	5 Tangata Whenua	6 Landscapes and Rural Character
25 Earthworks	26 Historic Heritage	27 Subdivision
28 Natural Hazards	29 Transport	30 Energy and Utilities
31 Signs	32 Protected Trees	33 Indigenous Vegetation
35 Temporary Activities and Relocated Buildings	36 Noise	37 Designations
Planning Maps		

34.3.2 Interpreting and Applying the Rules

- 34.3.2.1 The rules in Chapter 34 apply to all parts of the District, including formed and unformed roads, whether zoned or not.
- 34.3.2.2 The status of any Plantation Forestry will be determined by the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry) Regulations 2017.

34.4 Rule – Planting of wilding exotic trees

Rule	Table 1: Planting of wilding exotic trees	Activity Status
34.4.1	Planting of the following: a. Radiata pine (<i>Pinus radiata</i>) Except for Plantation Forestry where the Resource Management (Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry) Regulation 2017 prevails.	Discretionary
34.4.2	Planting of the following: a. Contorta or lodgepole pine (<i>Pinus contorta</i>); b. Scots pine (<i>Pinus sylvestris sylvestris</i>); c. Douglas fir (<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>); d. European larch (<i>Larix decidua</i>); e. Corsican pine (<i>Pinus nigra</i>); f. Bishops pine (<i>Pinus muricata</i>); g. Ponderosa pine (<i>Pinus Ponderosa</i>); h. Mountain pine (<i>Pinus mugo uncinata</i>); i. Dwarf Mountain pine (<i>Pinus mugo</i>); j. Maritime pine (<i>Pinus pinaster</i>); k. Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>); l. Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>); m. Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>); n. Buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>); o. Grey willow (<i>Salix cinereal</i>);	Prohibited No application for resource consent can be accepted.

	p. Crack willow (<i>Salix fragilis</i>); q. Cotoneaster (<i>Simonsii</i>); r. Rowan (<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>); s. Spanish heath (<i>Erica lusitanica</i>). Except for Plantation Forestry where the Resource Management (Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Plantation Forestry) Regulation 2017 prevails.	
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34.4.3 Exemption

- 34.4.3.1 For avoidance of doubt, this rule does not require the felling or removal of any tree identified and scheduled in the District Plan as a protected tree.

34.5 Rules – Non-Notification of Applications

The provisions of the RMA apply in determining whether an application needs to be processed on a notified basis. No activities in this chapter have been identified for processing on a non-notified basis.