

Willows

Wreck Wetlands

Willows have been planted widely to help with the reclamation and stabilization of river banks, but two willow species spell disaster for wetlands.

Crack willow and Grey (Pussy) willow released onto wetlands quickly become the dominant species, altering the environment and out competing native plants.



Photo courtesy of Waikato Times

Crack willow and Grey willow are particularly invasive.



Willow invasion threatens the survival of some of our most amazing native wetland plants and wildlife.



Weed-free wetlands are important to all of us:

- As **water storage** areas they help reduce flooding.
- As **sediment filters** they help keep the water clear for us to enjoy.
- As a **unique ecosystem** they represent a special part of our natural heritage.

More than 90% of New Zealand's wetlands have already disappeared.

In 1840 there were approximately 110,000 hectares of wetland areas in the Waikato, today there are only 30,000 hectares and much of that is covered in willows.

The Department of Conservation takes the spread of willows very seriously and is actively involved in the removal of willows from wetlands.

Wipe willows from wetlands!

