MONTBRETIA SP. INVASIVE SPECIES METHOD STATEMENT

This statement must be copied to the site owner, designer, clerk of works, and to those contractors whose work may affect hedgehogs including those involved in all elements of the work detailed above. A signed copy should be kept at the site offices.

This method statement contains information regarding:

- **Species identification and environmental issues**
- **Working methods**

We have read and fully understood this method statement and this has been explained to the site operatives:

	Print Name	Signature	Date
Supervisor:			
Operative:			
Operative:			
Operative:			
Operative:			

Background

Montbretia, a Schedule 9 non-native invasive species, was found to be present in the south of the site (see Target Note 4 in figure below) in July 2022. As this species can spread quickly, particularly in urban areas which may be subject to additional garden waste being deposited on site, it is recommended that prior to vegetation clearance, the site is searched to identify if any further areas are present.



Montbretia (*Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia*) was introduced to the UK in 1880 as a garden plant. By 1911 it had escaped from gardens through natural dispersal (mainly by rhizomes, rarely by seed) and through the disposal of garden waste. By the late 20th century it had spread across most of the UK. Montbretia is a dominant species and can exclude many native plant species.

Typical characteristics of the plant include;

- Grows to 60cm tall
- Leaves less than 3cm wide, upright, flat and bright green



- Orange tubular flowers in nodding clusters and long stamens
- Flowers born on long spikes
- Rusty brown dead leaves with dead flower/seed heads (in winter)

Montbretia is often found along hedgerows or road side verges. It is widespread and found throughout the UK, it is usually found close to gardens however it is no longer confined to urban locations.

What are the environmental issues associated with *Montbretia*?

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 / Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, which was updated in 2010, under section 14(2) it is an offence "to plant or otherwise encourage" the growth of Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia*. This could include cutting the plant or roots and disturbing surrounding soil if not correctly managed.

Any polluted soil or plant material which is viable that you discard, intend to discard should be appropriately disposed of at a licensed landfill.

Control of *Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia*

Although there are a number of options available for the treatment, the majority of these require a number of years in order to be effective. The two methods outlined below are the most effective in the time scales generally required by the construction industry.

Physical Control

Small, individual plants can be removed by hand, ideally before seed heads develop to prevent further spread, although most growth and spread is by rhizomes.

Larger plants or groups of plants can be removed with mechanical equipment with the roots dug out. It is essential that the stumps and roots are completely removed, as both can re-sprout. In such a situation it pays to remove too much material – which can involve clearing the area 2m around the plant to a depth of 1m, in order to ensure that the entire root system has been removed.

Ongoing maintenance of such areas needs to be undertaken to ensure that there is no re-growth through seedlings.

Even with great care, a certain amount of regrowth in the spring would be expected and any should be treated with an appropriate herbicide as discussed above.

Chemical Control

Montbretia can be treated with glyphosphate to control spread. Smaller plants can be sprayed directly while larger individuals should be mechanically cut to the stump with the stump then painted with glyphosphate.

Anyone planning to spray a herbicide must be "competent in their duties and have received adequate instruction and guidance in the safe and efficient use of pesticides." This means that the person who will be undertaking the spraying must hold a Certificate of Competence for herbicide use or should work under the direct supervision of a certificate holder. A Certificate of Technical Competence can be obtained by attending a

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short course at an agricultural college or similar institution.

The most effective active ingredient for use is called glyphosate. This is the active ingredient found in 'Round Up' and other similar herbicides. It is because it does not kill the plant immediately. Instead, the herbicide soaks through the leaves and is taken into the plant root system. The greater the number of green leaves present, the larger the quantity of herbicide that can be absorbed into the plant. It can take up to ten days for the plant to begin to die off after treatment and you should always watch for regrowth.

Disposal of Montbretia *Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia* – Removal from Site

- Polluted material should be removed from the site for disposal, unless otherwise agreed with the Environmental Regulator and Client.
- Any bags/skips containing these species should be covered to avoid spread of seeds along public highways.
- If contaminated soil is not treated on site or retained on site, Waste Transfer documentation will be required for any polluted material leaving the site.
- Check with the disposal site in advance that they can receive material containing these species. Be aware, the disposal site may require notice to allow an area to be prepared for this material away from the landfill liner.
- Chipped waste that is removed from the site should not be disposed of in adjacent waterbodies or left on adjacent land.

Working Methods in Areas Where *Crocosmia x crocosmiifolia* is Present

- Polluted areas should be clearly marked out on site.
- Use of tracked machinery should be limited until areas polluted with these species have been cleared and/or identified and cordoned off.
- Areas where these species have been identified should be cleared slowly, one at a time with ongoing assessment of the extent of polluted ground. Only essential vehicles should be present in polluted areas.
- Never stockpile potentially polluted material within 10 metres of a watercourse.
- Care should be taken to ensure that polluted material is not dropped or transferred to other areas of the site.
- Remaining contaminated soil should be monitored for regrowth, particularly during the growing season and, if necessary, treated with an appropriate herbicide as discussed above.
- All site operatives should be made aware of the requirements associated with the removal/disposal of this species in order to help limit accidental spread.
- All haulage lorries or dumpers carrying these species should be covered.
- Never use a strimmer, mower (without collection bucket) or chipper on these species

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