



## Broad-leaved plantain

### Why is it considered a weed?

Competes with more desirable species such as grass and clover.

### Where is it found?

Older lawns, run-down pastures, compacted soil.

### Is it toxic?

No.

### Other uses

Young, tender leaves can be eaten in salads; older, tougher leaves can be cooked in stews. It's also used as a traditional wound healer.

Visit [herbs.org.nz/plantain-fact-sheet/](http://herbs.org.nz/plantain-fact-sheet/) for more information.



**BROAD-LEAVED PLANTAIN** (*Plantago major*) is eaten by livestock and often doesn't cause a problem.

But if you have more broad-leaved plantain than grass in a pasture, it's likely to be bad news for your soil. It's a strong indicator of poor soil fertility and soil structure damage. It thrives where there has been over-grazing by heavy animals such as cattle or horses, or soil compaction around troughs, in races, and gateways.

The leaves are quite wide compared to narrow-leaved plantain. Both have distinctly visible veins running down the leaf length. It also has long seed heads compared to narrow-leaved's short head on a long stalk.

### How to control it

Control without chemical herbicide is nearly impossible, unless you cultivate an area and resow it.

Avoid subsoil damage from over-grazing by cattle and horses.

If you do use a chemical herbicide, most hormone-based sprays containing 2,4-D (sold as Baton or Sprinter), MCPA (sold as Agritone), or Clopyralid (sold as Versatill Powerflow or Archer) are effective, but some can damage clover and other herbaceous plants.

Always seek professional advice before applying herbicides, and use them as directed on the label.

### The other plantain

Narrow-leaved plantain is a useful pasture plant, and some cultivars are planted with grass and clover species, especially in areas prone to drought.



### About Gary

Gary Bosley works as PGG Wrightson's North Island technical specialist in agronomy. He and his family live on a 4ha lifestyle block south-east of Auckland. PGG Wrightson Ltd (PGW) does not warrant the information's accuracy, quality, outcome or fitness for any purpose.



**NOTE:** We recommend you get your own independent advice before you take any action on your block. Any action you take is strictly at your own risk.