

War on Weeds

*A guide to identifying weeds on your property,
in the bush and in your gardens.*



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natural resource
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<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeds/what.html>
- <http://treeday.planetark.org/about/why-native-plants.cfm>
- <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/weeds/declared-plants>

- John Moore and Judy Wheeler; Southern weeds and their control 3rd edition.
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- Steve & Geraldine Janicke, Waterway and Environmental Consultants
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Disclaimer - All information was compiled in January 2018 to the best of the authors knowledge.

We gathered a group of weeds that were significant to this region, many more weeds could not be included in the pamphlet due to space, but it does not make them less significant, please take all invasive flora seriously.

* **Control information for weeds**

This booklet presents the non-chemical control method for the removal of weeds. We choose not to give chemical control due to the many options and methods available.

There are many reliable methods out there including chemical control. Chemical control should be used with caution and advice should be sought when needed. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendation.

Another source of information for the treatment of weeds is 3rd edition of Southern weeds and their control by John Moore and Judy Wheeler.

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Oyster Harbour Catchment Group

The Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc. is a community natural resource management (NRM) group formed in 1992, and is made up of local landholders, community members, and NRM professionals who are passionate about caring for the environment.

The catchment area is approximately 3,000 square kilometres and stretches from Albany in the south to Tenterden in the north. It contains some of the Great Southern's most beautiful natural assets including the Porongurup, and Stirling Range National Parks, the Kalgan, and King River systems and the Oyster Harbour itself. It is also an area rich in native flora and fauna and regarded as a biodiversity hotspot.

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group works with landholders and community to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote sustainable farming practices. Activities include fencing, revegetation and rehabilitation of waterways, and areas of native bushland, weed and pest animal control, surveys of our native flora and fauna, addressing soil health issues, and community capacity building by supporting many smaller groups with their activities.

Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Vision and Purpose

Vision

To foster diverse and prosperous rural, urban and natural environments and landscapes for present and future generations.

Purpose

The purpose of the OHCG is to facilitate, co-ordinate and implement natural resource management through engagement with stakeholders in the Oyster Harbour Catchment and surrounding areas.

For more information www.ohcg.org.au

What is a weed?

***“A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted.
Any plant can become a weed.”***

A weed is any plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effect on the economy, the environment, human health or amenity. Weeds are also known as invasive plants. Many plants introduced into Australia in the last 200 years are now weeds.

Weeds typically produce large numbers of seeds, assisting their spread. They are often excellent at surviving and reproducing in disturbed environments and are commonly the first species to colonise and dominate in these conditions.

A weed can be an exotic species or a native species that colonises and persists in an ecosystem in which it did not previously exist. Weeds can inhabit all environments.

Some weeds are of particular concern and, as a result, have been listed for priority management or legislation.

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/declared-plants/declared-plant-control-table>

Throughout Australia, weeds are spreading faster than they can be controlled and management of them is consuming an enormous amount of resources.

How do I prevent the spread of weeds?

Don't dump garden waste instead:

- Bury deeply, and watch the area for regrowth
- Burn waste, then bury deeply
- Bag (or cover) weeds in heavy duty black plastic. This will kill the plants, so that they can be disposed of safely (watch for seedlings popping up as it may not kill all mature seeds)
- When buying new plants, buy them from a reputable nursery and research weedy potential
- Plant local natives in your garden
- Control the spread of exotic plants in your garden by containing them on your property
- If a plant becomes unmanageable or if this plant is spreading rapidly, consider removing it
- Join a Landcare/weeding group in your area. Your help in controlling weeds will be highly valued

Local natives versus Australian natives

Many of us try to do the right thing in our gardens by planting native Australian plants. In recent years it has become apparent that by planting non - local native species we could be introducing a potential weed. For example, many Eastern states species have become weeds in Western Australia. When choosing plants for a garden consider using local natives and check the weed potential of other natives before planting.

People often wish to have a pretty flower garden, and this is okay, but you can control possible outbreaks of potentially weedy species by cutting flower heads before they seed thereby containing them to your garden. However, do check out our many beautiful local natives that have amazing and unique flowers.

There are many reasons why planting native plants that are local to your area are important.

- Local native plants have adapted over a long period of time to the specific conditions in your area. They are therefore best adapted to grow in these local conditions and will be more likely to thrive than plants from a different region
- Local plant communities provide the most suitable food and habitat for local native wildlife. This is especially the case when a mixture of plants is selected to reflect the balance (between trees, shrubs and groundcovers) that originally occurred before disturbance.
- They support native animals: birds, bats, possums, amphibians, native bees and other wildlife, in many cases these are in decline or endangered
- They help combat salinity
- They prevent soil erosion
- They secure our food resources: around one-third of our food comes from plants that rely on native pollinators such as insects!



Images: Geraldine Janicke



African Cornflag (*Chasmanthe floribunda*)

African Cornflag is a significant Environmental Weed in Western Australia. It is a very invasive weed. People can mistake this flower for *Watsonia species*, (see page 24). It is common around roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, parks, grasslands, open woodlands, coastal sites and waterways.

- The orange-red/yellow trumpet shaped flowers of the corn flag have six petals and are arranged in rows up the stem (which are purple or occasionally green in appearance)
- The leaves are light green, long and sword like standing up tall amongst the flowers
- The fruit is a capsule, the corm and “cormlets” remain dormant over summer and emerge around autumn. It reproduces by seed and via its underground corms. The corms can produce smaller corms (cormlets) around each parent corm.

Flowering: July to September

Seeding: August to October

Origin: South Africa

Control: Stock grazing can help control this *Watsonia* lookalike. Cultivation to a depth of 100 mm can provide good control but must be done before the flower stem develops. Follow up treatment are usually required. Thick infestations are difficult to control manually.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthos species*)



Images: Geraldine Janicke



Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*)

Arum Lily is a Declared Plant in Western Australia; people also refer to it as the Calla or White Arum Lily. It is found in wet zones and is very common in areas where it is damp in summer, in the higher rainfall South West of WA, often forming large dense clumps.

- The foliage is a rich dark green, the white to greenish white flowers are tubular/trumpet type in style, becoming funnel shaped at the top with a slit down one side
- An escaped garden plant that has become established as a weed
- Known to cause poisoning in stock and humans. Seeds do not remain viable from year to year however it spreads vegetatively by regeneration from tuber fragments

Flowering: July to December (may be staggered).

Seeding: May to December

Origin: South Africa

Control: Manual control is quite difficult as the plant can regrow from tiny root fragments. All parts of the root must be removed for long term control. Rotary hoe or similar treatment over a few years will help control outbreaks. Removing any flowers will help control spread by birds and animals

*Herbicide application can send some tubers into dormancy therefore any control program needs to continue for at least five years.

*Chemical control can be used

*This species is toxic to livestock and humans.

Plant me instead: Coastal Jug Flower (*Adenanthos cuneatus*)



Images: Lisa Braun

Blackberry (*Rubus species*)

Blackberry (*Rubus species*) is a Declared Plant in Western Australia and a Weed of National Significance. It is a prickly, fast growing plant that is very difficult to remove manually. Its preferred habitat is creek lines spreading into forest, farmland and woodlands.

- A shrub that grows in thickets and forms long canes that climb along the ground or up trees/bushes
- The light to dark green leaves are ovate shaped and are 3-15 cm in size
- Flowers are white to light pink; the fruit is red to start with then darkens to a deep black/purple
- It reproduces in many ways, seed, stem layering and suckering. Birds and animals love the fruit, so the seeds can get dispersed far and wide

Flowering: December to February

Seeding: January to April

Origin: Europe

Control: Mechanical control is difficult and although fire does not kill the rootstock, it can help with gaining access to the area for manual removal or spraying. Control will be required for a number of years. For larger plants cut or slash canes. This is a difficult weed to eradicate and it is best to consult the experts for best results.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: There is no real native equivalent to Blackberry but if you are looking for the thick shrubby appearance, *Callistemon* (Bottlebrush) species, will give a similar look and coverage or *Hakea Horrida* for the spikey appearance and deterrent factor.



Images: Claire Barton



Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)

Bridal Creeper is a Weed of National Significance. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. It occurs as a weed along roadsides, farmland, waste places and disturbed scrubland.

- It is a climbing/twisting vine to 3 m, it has creamy white flowers with six petals.
- Numerous shoots are produced from one patch of roots and entwine with each other and the native vegetation
- The fruit are bright red fleshy berries. The foliage is dull to glossy green

Flowering: August to September but is variable

Seeding: October to December

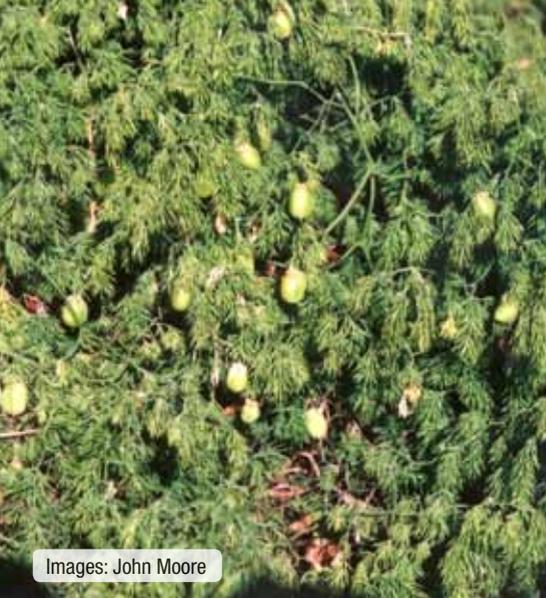
Origin: South Africa

Control: Biological control can be effective (see below) along with manual removal technique. Although this may take years to achieve full eradication manual control will reduce the spread significantly as a single m² can produce around 1000 seeds. The tubers (roots) last in the environment even in bad conditions for years.

*Biological control agents are available. The Bridal Creeper Leafhopper (*Zygina sp.*), Rust Fungus (*Puccinia myrsiphylli*) and Leaf Beetle (*Crioceris sp.*)

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*)



Images: John Moore



Bridal Veil (*Asparagus declinatus (crispus)*)

Bridal Veil is a Weed of National Significance that differs from our other *Asparagus* problem weeds with the foliage being much finer with hundreds of leaf like structures all over the wiry stems. It is found in mostly disturbed areas like woodlands, roadsides and old tips.

- Bridal Veil is a scrambling or twinning plant. The flowers are white to green with six petals
- Germinates by rhizome supported by a mass of tubers or by seed dispersal. The fruit of Bridal Veil is nearly double the size of Bridal Creeper
- As with Bridal Creeper it can die off over summer and appear dead, but it will re-shoot over the cooler months
- The fruit is green, turning blue-grey when ripe. It can fruit all year in the right conditions

Flowering: April to August but can vary

Seeding: March to December

Origin: South Africa

Control: Grazing and/or fire over the area can reduce the regrowth. The main methods of control are digging out, or grubbing, the above and below ground parts of the plant, cutting back the foliage and over a number of years. Biocontrol agents introduced for Bridal Creeper control have little effect on this species.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Australian Bluebells (*Billardiera fusiformis*)



Image: John Moore



Image: Jenni Loveland

Bull Rush (*Typha orientalis*)

Typha orientalis and *Typha domingensis* are both native to Eastern Australia, however, only *T. domingensis* is native to Western Australia. The two species can be difficult to separate. The main distinguishing feature is that *T. orientalis* has a 14 mm leaf blade width and *T. domingensis* has an 8 mm leaf blade width. It grows in water and boggy areas, winter-wet depressions, permanent wetlands and irrigation channels.

- A tall, rigid reed to 4.5 m high with flat strap-like leaves to 2 m long and a thick cylindrical stem
- The flowering stem is very long, and the flower sits at the tip and is a cylindrical, brown, velvety brush of densely packed tiny flowers
- They are wind-pollinated

Flowering: November to January

Seeding: January and February

Origin: Eastern Australia

Control: Cutting shoots 15 cm below the water surface two to three times in a season when actively growing, before seeds are formed, greatly reduces stands. Eradication is difficult because of the large seed production and root system. Cultivation, mowing, physical removal, burning, herbicides lowering of the water table to >1 m will all assist control.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Bull Rush (*Typha domingensis*)



Image: John Moore



Image: Lisa Braun



Dolichos Pea (*Dipogon lignosus*)

Commonly grown in gardens, Dolichos Pea has become a serious weed in disturbed bushland areas especially near the coast.

- Dolichos Pea is a perennial, robust climbing vine the leaves are heart shaped each 2-7 cm long.
- The white/pink/purple flowers are pea type, and in clusters
- The seed pod after flowering is flat and between 2-4.5 cm long
- Large plants can produce thousands of seeds annually. It reproduces by seed and rhizomes

Flowering: September to November, variable

Seeding: October to February

Origin: South Africa

Control: It is difficult to manually remove this plant due to its twisted intertwining nature and its perennial, spreading, underground rhizomes. Fire or grazing can be used to gain better access before manual removal techniques; but where possible, hand pull younger smaller plants. Cut at ground level vines of larger plants and leave to dry in canopy, and then dig out woody roots. Grazing with livestock can be an option. Plants may re-sprout so follow up for a few years is a must.

*Burning usually generates mass production of seeds.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Common Clematis (*Clematis pubescens*)

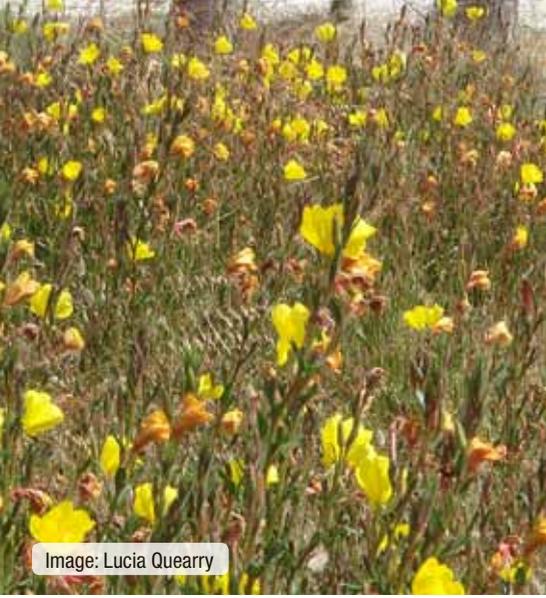


Image: Lucia Quearry



Image: John Moore



Image: John Moore

Evening Primrose (*Oenothera* species)

There are many varieties of *Oenothera* with the most common in the south west being *O. glazioviana* and *O. stricta*. Evening Primrose (*O. stricta*) is an Environmental Weed. It is common along roadsides and in sandy patches.

- Narrow rich green leaves in a large clump at the base with a leafy spike with large (up to 10 cm) yellow flowers up the stalk that open in the evening. The flower will turn dark orange and purple as they die
- The fruit is a long and slender capsule and silky and glandular with hairs.
- The stem is up to 1 m tall
- Seed dispersal wind, and soil movement

Flowering: January-November, and occasionally in December

Seeding: Possible all year due to flowering pattern

Origin: South America

Control: It is best controlled at the seedling stage, as it tends to break off and regrow from the rootstocks in older plants. Older plants are also quite resistant to herbicides. If removing manually, use garden tools to make sure that all rootstock is removed. Increased grazing pressure or cultivation normally controls it. It is best burnt or buried more than 1 m deep.

*Chemical control can be used.

Plant me instead: Blue Grass Lily (*Agrostocrinum scabrum*)



Images: Geraldine Janicke



Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

Gorse is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. It is a Weed of National Significance and a Declared Plant for Western Australia. Gorse is not discriminative when it comes to where it grows and will grow almost anywhere.

- A woody, dense spiny shrub to 4 m (average 2.5 m high)
- Instead of leaves, adult plants have thick spiny structures (although the seedlings have leaves with 3 leaflets)
- The pea type flowers are bright yellow
- The hairy seed pod can split open and shoot seeds up to 5 m

Flowers: March to May, September to November, but can flower all year

Seeding: Both seeding and fruiting varies, depending on where it grows, but fruiting will come during and after seeding, generally during hot dry periods

Origin: Europe and the United Kingdom

Control: Gorse is a very prickly weed to remove by hand so mechanical clearing by heavy machinery and rippers are a good method of control, especially in large infestations. If only a few trees, chain saw as low to the ground as possible and following up regularly with regrowth or seedlings. Stock grazing can be used, although many animals will only eat it in times of hardship. The seeds remain viable for many years.

*Soil disturbance and burning encourages growth

*Chemical control can be used.

Plant me instead: Showy Dryandra (*Banksia formosa*)



Image: John Moore



Images: Greenskills Albany

Holly-leaved Senecio (*Senecio glastifolius*)

There are several *Senecio* species, but the most common one around Albany and surrounds is the Holly-leaved Senecio *S. glastifolius*. It is regarded as an Environmental Weed in Western Australia. It grows along roadsides, burn sites, poorly grazed pastures, urban bushland and disturbed areas. Very common in periodically waterlogged scrubland.

- An herbaceous upright plant 1-2 m tall
- In its first year it usually only has one stem but grows more branches each year becoming bushier with age
- The rich green leaves have strongly serrated/ toothed edges that clasp to the stems they are basically hairless but have fine ridges running lengthwise
- The pale purple, dark purple or pink flowers look like small daisies

Flowers: September to November

Seeding: November to March

Origin: Southern Africa

Control: Hand remove small infestations before flowering or seeding. Remove and burn the plants, and especially the flower heads, as the seeds can mature on reserves held in the stems. Cut larger plants at ground level in spring before flowering, continuing for a few years. Fire can increase the prevalence of infestations. Cultivation and grazing provides reasonable control.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Pink Rice Flower (*Pimelea ferrugine*)

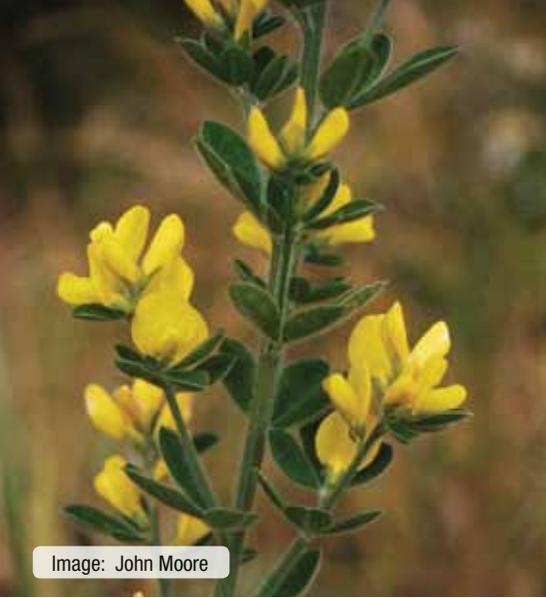


Image: John Moore



Image: Lisa Braun

Montpellier Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)

There are many species of Broom, but Montpellier Broom (*G. monspessulana*) is the most common in our area. This Weed of National Significance was introduced as an ornamental shrub and is often naturalised along roadsides and disturbed forest areas.

- An upright (i.e. erect) and spreading shrub usually growing 1-2 m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 3 m in height
- Dispersal, explosive action which sends the seeds far, after which it is dispersed by birds, ants, water, vehicles, slashing, soil movement, garden refuse
- The leaves are small, green on top, greyish underneath, wedge shaped, and a little hairy
- The bright yellow flowers are in clusters and slightly hairy

Flowering: August to November

Seeding: October to January

Origin: Northern Africa, Southern Europe and Western Asia

Controls: Grazing can help reduce the infestation or mechanically remove the plant from the roots where possible.

Fire can create mass germination of seeds laying in dormancy. If the population is dense remove all plants by slashing and burning followed by cultivation or grazing of the seedlings.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Woolly Bush (*Adenanthos sericeus*)



Images: John Moore



Myrtle-leaved Milkwort (*Polygala myrtifolia*)

Myrtle-leaved Milkwort (*P. myrtifolia*) is a moderately important Environmental Weed in Western Australia. It was recently listed as a priority Environmental Weed in three Natural Resource Management regions. Common in coastal environments, open woodlands, grasslands and watercourses in the temperate regions of Australia.

- It has bright pink or pale purple flowers that look similar to a pea flower
- The thick leathery leaves are light green hairless, small and crowded along the stem
- A bushy shrub 1.4-4 m high
- Commonly seeds in autumn but can germinate at any time of year that moisture is available especially after fire or soil disturbance

Flowers: September to December but can flower all year if conditions correct.

Seeding: August to March

Origin: Southern Africa

Control: Seedlings and smaller plants can be manually removed. Older or larger plants can be cut off close to ground level or mown and usually don't regrow. Burn or deeply bury material that has ripe fruit or seed. Fire will kill small plants and if intense enough it will also kill larger plants, but this will also encourage seeds to germinate. Follow up treatment for at least three years.

*Chemical control can be used.

Plant me instead: Painted Lady (*Gompholobium scabrum*)



Image: John Moore



Image: Geraldine Janicke

Tagasaste/Tree Lucerne (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*)

Tagasaste is regarded as an Environmental Weed in Western Australia, particularly in the southern regions. It is a garden escapee and used for fodder for livestock. Common along roadsides, in pastures, grasslands, heathlands, open woodlands, disturbed sites and waste areas.

- A large shrub or small tree to 5 m high
- The weeping branches contain grey/greenish soft hairy foliage
- The scented white/cream pea type flowers are clustered together
- Spread initially by intentional planting then by seed dispersed by animals eg. birds, ants, soil movement and natural means

Flowers: March to November

Seeding: September to March

Origin: Canary Islands

Control: Hand pull seedlings and smaller plants. Heavy grazing can be used to provide control by ring barking the trees and consuming the seedlings. Do not disturb areas unless follow up control is planned. It will take several years to achieve control. For large infestations chain or bull dose trees, burn, then control the regrowth and seedlings. Older plants can grow back from damaged stems. The seeds may remain dormant for more than 10 years or more.

*Germination is encouraged by fire and disturbance which often leads to a mass germination and increase in infestation density.

*The seeds of this species are poisonous.

*Chemical control can be used.

Plant me instead: Moona (*Melaleuca preissiana*)



Image: John Moore



Images: Jenni Loveland

Taylorina (*Psoralea pinnata*)

Taylorina is regarded as an Environmental Weed in Western Australia. Previously this weed has been mostly isolated to the southwest, but it is spreading rapidly. It is most commonly found in swamps, coastal environs, roadsides, disturbed sites and waste areas, it prefers wet areas.

- A shrub that stands upright and grows from 1-5 m tall
- The white (with blue or purplish markings) flowers are pea shaped
- This weed can resemble a pine to the untrained eye due to the narrow linear leaf like structures that range in colour from light green to rich green

Flowers: September to April

Seeding: September to March

Origin: Southern Africa

Control: Hand pull or dig out seedlings or young plants (1-2 years old). Grazing can provide some control of seedlings but follow up monitoring is needed for 8-10 years. Slashing or cutting will help control larger plants, but plants less than 1 m tall often re-grow. Fire can kill larger plants, but it will also encourage mass germination of seeds from the seed bank so follow up treatment is a must so as not to increase the infestation. Fire is not generally recommended for this species. All Taylorina sites should be monitored and controlled for more than ten years.

*Chemical control can be used.

Plant me instead: Scarlet Banksia (*Banksia coccinea*)



Image: Jenni Loveland



Images: Geraldine Janicke

Tick Bush (*Kunzea ambigua*)

Tick Bush is not yet classed due to its fairly isolated outbreak. If proper control is undertaken, we could possibly eliminate it. It is common on road verges and gardens. This plant has similarities to other native *Kunzea* species so care must be taken when identifying.

- Large shrub of variable growth habit reaching a height of about 2-3 m, it is a very dense shrub
- It has a mass of white flowers and is a very prolific seeder
- The white flowers grow directly from the stem and are clustered into globular-shaped heads
- The olive-green leaves are small and linear around 4-12 mm long

Flowers: September to February

Seeding: After seeding

Origin: New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania

Control: Manual removal is usually effective. Burning followed by bull dosing or chaining is usually the most cost effective for large stands. Blade ploughing would probably provide good control. Note - can re-grow from the stump if damaged.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Any local *Kunzea* species (*Kunzea preissiana*)



Image: Jenni Loveland



Image: Jenni Loveland

Victorian Teatree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*)

Victorian Teatree is regarded as a significant Environmental Weed in Western Australia. It grows on roadsides, built up areas, coastal sand dunes and cliffs, and wasteland it was, and still is used commonly in garden planting in WA.

- A thick dense small tree or shrub that generally grows 2-4 m but in the right conditions, can grow up to 6 m
- A very long-lived plant that commonly lives for 25-40 years but can live up to 150 years
- The leaves are small grey/green and leathery to touch
- The flowers are white with five sparsely spread petals which are followed by very distinctive woody capsules

Flowers: July to October, and April

Seeding: All year round

Origin: Native to South-eastern Australia (coastal areas of NSW, Eastern Victoria and North-Eastern Tasmania)

Control: Hand pull seedlings. Fell mature plants. Re-sprouting can occur. Grazing provides effective control of young plants incorporated by frequent fires before seeding of big plants for a few years. Small plants with stems less than 25 mm thick tend to re-sprout after cutting. Older plants with stems wider than 50 mm don't often sprout if cut very close to the ground.

*Chemical control can be used.

*Victorian Teatree is similar to other native Teatree's; the distinguishing feature is its woody fruit have 7-10 compartments (most other species have fruit with less than seven compartments).

Plant me instead: Roadside Teatree (*Leptospermum Erubescens*)

Wattles (*Acacias*) - Flinders Ranges Wattle (*Acacia iteaphylla*)



Image: R.Richarson

Flinders Range Wattle is an Environmental Weed outside its native range. It looks very similar in appearance to the native Myrtle Wattle (*A.myrtifolia*). It is a common weed in disturbed woodland or waste disposal areas. Spread is usually by intentional planting or dumping of garden refuse.

- A dense shrub 2 - 5 m high with smooth, green tinged bark, the branches are weeping
- The foliage is very long narrow, silvery grey-green
- The flowers are pale yellow to lemon and are globular in groups of six to 16 headed sprays, each head with 12-17 flowers
- Seed dispersal water, birds, ants, garden refuse, soil movement

Flowering: March to December

Seeding: July to December

Origin: South Australia

Wattles (*Acacias*) - Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*)



Image: R.Richarson

Golden Wattle (*Acacia pycnantha*) is Australia's floral emblem, however, it is not native to Western Australia.

- It is a sparse branched tree that grows 2-8 m high
- The smooth bark is dark brown or grey
- The dark green leaves are large (6-20 cm long by 0.5-3.5 cm wide) curved with a single prominent longitudinal vein
- The flowers are golden yellow and are globular in groups of 6-20 heads, each head with 40-80 flowers

Flowering: July to November

Seeding: October to January

Origin: Victoria and South Eastern South Australia

Wattles (*Acacias*) - Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*)



Image: Lisa Braun

Silver Wattle is not yet classified in W.A, but it is becoming all too common in areas such as the Jarrah and Karri forest, and in the Porongurup. It is considered to be a common Environmental Weed in the Adelaide region of South Australia and in Tasmania where it is reported to invade native bushland. It is a garden escapee.

- The flowers are golden-yellow and grow in small globular clusters that are arranged into larger elongated compound clusters
- A large bushy tree or shrub that is 1.5-10 m tall, but occasionally reaching up to 30 m in height
- The young branches and immature fruit have a whitish-coloured powdery or waxy coating that gives them a frost/silvery appearance

Flowering: June to December

Seeding: September to March

Origin: South East Australia.

Wattles (*Acacias*) - Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*)



Image: R.Richarson

Sydney Golden Wattle is an invasive shrub or small tree that was once used as a restoration plant. It is a Garden escapee. It differs from *A. saligna* (local native) by the leaves, *A. longifolia* has 2-4 prominent longitudinal veins whereas *Saligna* have one prominent vein running lengthwise down their centre.

- Tree or shrub to 1.5-10 m high x 1-25 m wide with dark grey, finely fissured bark and green foliage
- Golden yellow, cylindrical rachis or dense spikes, many individual flowers on 2-5 mm stalks

Flowering: June to November

Seeding: September to February

Origin: Eastern Australia.

*** *Acacia longifolia* can cause stock death as it has cyanides/ toxicity in the leaves**

Wattle Control

A. iteaphylla: Cut at the base or bulldoze. Seedlings tend not establish into mature stands

A. pycnantha: Older plants can be chemically ringbarked. Adult plants can re-sprout following fire and after being cut down if not chemically treated. This species reproduces only by seed, which are long-lived and germinate readily after fires.

A. longifolia: Only occasionally re-sprouts as it does not produce root suckers. Seed may remain dormant for more than 10 years. Seedlings do not establish in mature stands.

A. dealbata: Adult plants will re-sprout from base and from root suckers following fire and after being cut down if not chemically treated. Older plants can be chemically ringbarked.

All: For all weedy Acacia species, a long-term control plan is usually required for success. Hand pull seedlings. Fell mature plants. Continue to control weed for up to ten years. Fire stimulates mass germination of soil-stored seed, however if these seedlings are controlled very quickly it reduces the seed bank in the soil dramatically.

****A. dealbata* and *A. longifolia* wattle can be toxic to stock**

*Chemical control can be used.

Plant me instead: Golden Wreath Wattle - (*A. saligna*) or
Coastal Wattle (*A. cyclops*)

Most wattle species are native to Australia however some species have been deliberately or accidentally released into Western Australia and these species cause problems such as crowding out our native species and some are even toxic to stock. Many species are also very similar in appearance, so we have added pictures of leaves that people sometimes get confused with. We have labelled them “good” and “bad” for this region only. Please check the species are not native for your region before removing.

Mistaken Identity: leaves of invasive “bad” wattles versus leaves of “good’ local natives





Images: Jenni Loveland

Watsonias (*Watsonia species*)

Watsonia species are an environmental and Noxious Weed of Western Australia. In WA, most species are prohibited (on the prohibited species list and not permitted entry into the state). It is a serious weed, particularly in damp areas of the south-west and on the south coast. As Watsonia plants are often transported by water they are commonly found along water courses.

- An upright and long-lived herb, usually growing 1-1.8 m tall but can occasionally get taller
- This plant grows each year from underground 'bulbs' (corms) or bulbils on the stem.
- The green/reddish stems are upright, rounded in shape and can get up to 20 mm thick
- The large straps like leaves are similar to sedge and are 56-110 cm long
- The trumpet flowers come in a range of colours depending on species. The colours range from pink, orange, salmon, white and red

Flowers: September to November

Seeding: May to July but variable between areas and species.

Origin: Native to southern Africa

Control: Grazing provides effective control. Cultivation to 100 mm can provide good control if done regularly for a few years before fruiting. Small infestations can be dug up or hand weeded in early winter, but corms must be removed and burnt otherwise they will re shoot. Mowing and slashing are ineffective unless repeated very regularly

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Coast Sword Sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum* and *L. squamatum*)



Images: John Moore

Yellow Flowered Stinkwort (*Dittrichia viscosa*)

Yellow Flowered Stinkwort is on the Alert List for Environmental Weeds. It is occasionally found in swamps, but mainly occurs in highly disturbed areas such as roadsides, railway lines, fire breaks and walking trails. It loves the high rainfalls that occur in the south. *Dittrichia graveolens* can cause skin irritations in people and enteritis (inflammation of the small intestine) in stock that eat the flowers. It is thought that *D. viscosa* would have similar results.

- Upstanding bush with many branched leafy stems. 0.1-1m high
- Yellow/yellow-white that petal like florets
- The leaves are greyish-green toothed and elongated with the ends pinched together. The plant can become sticky and smelly when crushed

Flowering: January to April but can flower to November in correct conditions.

Seeding: February to April

Origin: Northern Africa, temperate and tropical areas of Asia and Europe

Control: Hand pull, or mechanically remove isolated small plants, preferably before flowering. The plants in flower should than be burnt as seed will develop from the nutrient reserves in the stem if left on the ground. Mowing will reduce flowering and seeding and can eventually provide control if done regularly and as close to the ground as possible and is best done during dry hot weather.

*Chemical control can be used

Plant me instead: Coast Daisy Bush (*Olearia axillaris*)

Other species to be aware of



Olive (*Olea europaea*)

There are many varieties of Olives that have become an Environmental Weed in WA, all species have a variety of fruits and features. An evergreen tree that grows 2-10 or up to 15 m in height.

Flowers: August to December

Seeding: March to August

Origin: Mediterranean

Control: Hand pull or dig out seedlings and small plants ensuring removal of all roots. Chainsaw large trees and watch for regrowth.



Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

A garden escapee that is now on the Environmental Weed list, a weed of wetlands, particularly around Albany. It is prohibited for sale in Western Australia. A large tussock-forming grass with very large drooping leaves and flowering stems the white/pink flowers are fluffy plume-like and feathery in appearance

Flowers: July to October but can flower all year

Seeding: September to November

Origin: Native to South America

Control: Mechanical removal of large plants can be effective; seedlings can be uprooted with a garden fork, followed by burning.



Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*)

Ornamental garden escapee. Self-seeds and frequently becomes naturalised from planted areas. A hairless, small round bush with clusters of small, pink to red (occasionally white) flowers.

Flowers: October to March

Seeding: December to March

Origin: Native to southern Europe and some parts of the Mediterranean region

Control: Remove flowering heads before they set seed to prevent it escaping from gardens.

DESCRIPTION ON DEFINITIONS

Environmental Weed - Plants that invade native ecosystems and adversely affect the survival of indigenous flora and fauna.

Environmental Weeds can be foreign plants accidentally or intentionally introduced into Australia, or they can be native plants that have become weedy due to inappropriate management, or because they are outside of their normal climatic range. Environmental Weeds may have significant economic and social impacts, as well as environmental impacts.

An Environmental Weed is one that is directly impacting our native biodiversity. It can be a species that is prohibited or restricted under legislation. It is what that plant is doing to damage the environment that defines it as an Environmental Weed.

For more information on Environmental Weeds:

www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/weeds/environmental-weeds

Declared Plant (DP) - To protect Western Australian agriculture the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia regulates harmful plants under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007.

Plants that are prevented entry into the State or have control or keeping requirements within the State are known as declared pests.

The Western Australian Organism List (WAOL) contains information on the area(s) in which a plant is declared and the control and keeping categories to which it has been assigned in Western Australia.

For more information on declared plants:

www.agric.wa.gov.au/pests-weeds-diseases/weeds/declared-plants

Weed of National Significance (WoNS) - Thirty-Two WoNS have been agreed by Australian governments based on an assessment process that prioritised these weeds based on their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts. Consideration was also given to their ability to be successfully managed. A list of 20 WoNS was endorsed in 1999 and a further 12 were added in 2012. For more information on WONS:

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeds/lists/wons.html

Noxious Weeds

A Noxious Weed is an invasive species of a plant which is designated as harmful to agricultural crops, ecosystems, or humans or livestock. Most of the noxious weeds have been introduced into an ecosystem by ignorance, or by way of accident. However, some of them are native. Noxious weeds greatly affect agricultural areas, forest management, natural and other open areas. The legal designation of noxious weed for a plant species can use the following criteria:

1. It is present in a state ecosystem, but not native to that state ecosystem.
2. It affects the area and is more harmful.
3. The management & eradication of the weed is feasible both economically and physically.
4. The harmful impact of the weed exceeds the cost of its control.

For more information: www.definitions.uslegal.com/n/noxious-weed-seeds/

National Environmental Alert List

The National Environmental Alert List (the Alert List) for environmental weeds identifies 28 plant species that are in the early stages of establishment and have the potential to become a significant threat to biodiversity if they are not managed. For more information:

www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weeds/lists/index.html

*** For more information on the management of invasive weed species contact your local landcare or Sustainable Agriculture group for guidance and they can put you in touch with someone who can help.**

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Oyster Harbour Catchment Group would like to thank you for taking the time to learn about invasive flora. We hope that this booklet has given you some information that will help you identify just a few of the common weeds you can find in this region. There are many more weeds out there lurking in the environment so please research before planting or removing flora that you are unsure of.

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