

GROUNDCOVERS/HERBS

TREES AND SHRUBS

stop the spread

Weeds are Spoiling our Environment



sydneyweeds.org.au



ST JOHNS WORT
Hypericum perforatum

Erect perennial herb or small shrub to 1.2m tall with a creeping rootstock. Leaves show oil glands when viewed against light. Native to Europe.

Flowers: Bright yellow flowers in clusters at branch tips, flowering in Spring and Summer. Dead brown flower stalks are clearly visible at other times.

Fruit/Seed: Egg-shaped capsule with many small, dark pitted seeds.

Dispersal: By seed, suckering, wind, animals, machinery and dumping. Invades unimproved overgrazed pastures.

Special Note: **Toxins in leaves can cause photosensitivity, hypersensitivity and infertility in grazing animals.**



PRIVET - BROAD LEAF
Ligustrum lucidum

Very common tree, 4 to 10m tall in moist, nutrient rich sites such as gullies and home gardens. Large dark green leaves arranged opposite on the stem, paler underside. Native to China.

Flowers: Small, white, strongly scented flowers in summer.

Fruit/Seed: Sprays of purple-black berries occurring in winter.

Dispersal: Birds and water.

Special Note: **May be confused with the native Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*). The Lilly Pilly has oil glands in its leaves.**



PRIVET - SMALL LEAF
Ligustrum sinense

Common tall multi-stemmed shrub to 3m high found in moist, nutrient rich areas. Leaves narrow, opposite often with wavy margins. Native to China.

Flowers: Small, white strongly scented flowers in spring.

Fruit/Seed: Dark purple-black berries occurring in winter.

Dispersal: Birds and water.

Special Note: **May be confused with the native myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) and *Breytia oblongifolia*. The native myrtle has oil glands in its leaves.**



GREEN CESTRUM
Cestrum parqui

Straggly woody shrub 2-3m tall with light green alternate leaves to 12cm long, giving off an unpleasant smell when crushed. Imported as an ornamental, it has become a weed in gardens, bushland and along waterways. Native to South America.

Flowers: Sprays of small tubular yellow-green flowers on end of stems from late spring to autumn.

Fruit/Seed: Shiny black egg shaped berries in clusters

Dispersal: Birds and water.

Special Note: **Highly poisonous to livestock, particularly cattle, and can be toxic to humans.**



LANTANA
Lantana camara - Weed of National Significance

Fast growing shrub with brittle climbing and scrambling branches, square stems with short prickles and opposite hairy leaves with distinctive smell. Native to South America.

Flowers: Small clusters of red, pink or yellow flowers all year.

Fruit/Seed: Black berries, fruiting most heavily in summer.

Dispersal: Birds, dumping, branches re-rooting at ground level.

Special Note: **Large stands have sometimes been found to provide habitat for native animals. May be confused with Native Peach (*Trema aspera*).**



TRAD
Tradescantia fluminensis

A vigorously growing, succulent, spreading groundcover with alternating dark, shiny leaves and weak roots at each node. It prefers moist, nutrient rich habitats. Native to South America.

Flowers: White flowers in terminal clusters appearing in spring and summer.

Fruit/Seed: Does not produce viable seed in Australia.

Dispersal: Can reproduce from a leaf or stem fragment. Water and dumping.

Special Note: **May be confused with *Commelina cyanea*, which has blue flowers and thick, fleshy roots.**



BITOU BUSH - Weed of National Significance
Chrysanthemoides monnifera ssp. *rotundata*

A perennial, evergreen sprawling shrub, normally 1-2 m high. Stems are branched and woody and the upper stems are often purple. Leaves are oval to oblong in shape, and tapering at the base, with smooth edges. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Golden yellow, daisy flowers appearing mostly in spring to early summer.

Fruit/Seed: The fruit is a purplish black berry occurring in clusters and ripening in summer.

Dispersal: Soil disturbance, fire and ingestion of seed by birds and animals.



AFRICAN BOXTHORN
Lycium ferocissimum

Thorny, much-branched large shrub to 5m. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Purplish-white flowers with darker purple blotches in centre, flowering mainly in spring and summer but sporadically throughout the year.

Fruit/Seed: Fleshy bright orange-red round berries.

Dispersal: Birds, animals and dumping. Suckers from root fragments if mechanically disturbed.



BLACK WILLOW
Salix nigra - Weed of National Significance

Deciduous, rapidly-growing tree to about 20m tall with one, or less often up to 4, trunks. Non-drooping habit, twigs shiny and red-brown when exposed to sun, thin leaves and deeply fissured grey bark. Native to North America.

Flowers: Trees either male or female. Flower spikes (catkins) appear with leaves in spring. Male catkins yellow, female catkins green.

Fruit/Seed: Cone-shaped capsules containing small, cottony seeds

Dispersal: Seeds spread by water and new trees can sprout from broken branches. Major weed of streams and river banks and can block river flow.



ASTHMA WEED, PELLITORY, STICKY WEED
Parietaria judaica

Originating in Europe, Pellitory is a brittle perennial herb to 60cm high commonly found in rock crevices and walls. The stem (reddish coloured) and leaves have fine hairs allowing the plant to stick to clothing.

Flowers: Very small greenish flowers all year.

Fruit/Seed: Dark brown-black seed enclosed in a small nut, occurring prolifically in spring and autumn.

Dispersal: Wind, water, local re-rooting.

Special Note: **Pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as rhinitis, asthma and conjunctivitis. Seek advice on removal techniques.**



BONESEED - Weed of National Significance
Chrysanthemoides monnifera ssp. *monnifera*

A perennial shrub, which grows up to 3m high. It has woody branched stems and oval shaped leaves with irregularly serrated edges. New growth is typically covered by white downy cotton-like material. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Golden yellow, daisy flowers appearing mostly in spring to early summer.

Fruit/Seed: Round fleshy green fruit turning black when mature and containing a single smooth round seed. The seed is bone coloured when dry, hence the name 'bone seed'.

Dispersal: Birds, rabbits, foxes and cattle.




AFRICAN OLIVE
Olea europaea subsp. *cuspidata*

Small evergreen tree 2-15m high, often grown as a garden ornamental and as a hedge. Narrow, dark green lance-shaped leaves, younger leaves have tiny brown scales on the underside. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: White to cream tubular flowers, flowering in spring at the junction of the leaves and the stem.

Fruit/Seed: Green berries in winter ripening to purple-black. Produces thousands of seeds.

Dispersal: Foxes and birds.



RHUS
Toxicodendron succedaneum

A small deciduous tree to 4m high. Distinguished by compound leaves with 7 to 10 leaflets and a terminal leaflet, turning brilliant red in autumn. Native to China, Japan and Himalayas.

Flowers: Very small, creamy white, flowers in spring.

Fruit/Seed: Clusters of pale brown berries (5 to 7mm) turning papery on ripening between May and September.

Dispersal: Birds.

Special Note: **This plant can cause severe dermatitis and swelling of the face if any part of the plant makes skin contact (the sap causing the most severe reaction).**



MOTHER OF MILLIONS
Bryophyllum delagoense

Slender erect succulent perennial with pinkishbrown or greyish stems up to 60cm high with thick waxy leaves. Native to Madagascar.

Flowers: Tubular red to orange flowers from May to October. Form drooping clusters at the top of long stalks.

Fruit/Seed: Dry fruits contain many seeds that can live 2-3 years in the soil.

Dispersal: Many minute plantlets on the circumference of each leaf are able to form a new plant when the leaves break off. Forms fast spreading colonies.



HONEY LOCUST
Gleditsia triacanthos

A long-lived fast growing deciduous tree which can quickly form dense impenetrable thickets. Large spines or thorns grow from the trunk and branches. Native to North America.

Flowers: Creamy yellow hanging flower stalks to 10cm long are borne in October-November.

Fruit/Seed: Brown flattened seed pods to 20-40cm long.

Dispersal: Seeds are readily spread by water and animals. Also suckers freely to form thickets.

Special Note: **Thorns capable of injuring humans and animals.**



GORSE
Ulex europaeus - Weed of National Significance

A small prickly tree to 3m high, all stems and leaves end in sharp spines. Leaves are dark green, stiff and covered with a waxy coat. Flourishes in areas with very low rainfall. Native of Europe and the UK.

Flowers: Bright yellow, pea-like flowers in spring.

Fruit/Seed: Large numbers of brown to black seeds are produced in grey hairy pods, each pod holds three or four seeds.

Dispersal: Seed pods can split open and shoot seeds to a distance of 5m. Seeds also spread via water, birds, ants, soil, machinery and footwear.



CASTOR OIL PLANT
Ricinus communis

Tall shrub to 3m high common in disturbed areas. The stems are red tinged and the leaves are large and lobed, with suppressed veins. The sap is white. Native to Africa.

Flowers: Reddish green, flowers in summer.

Fruit/Seed: Green to black spiny fruit capsule occurring in autumn.

Dispersal: Seed explosion from capsule, water.

Special Note: **Seeds are highly toxic to humans and animals.**

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY

REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

- Bankstown City Council9707 9999
- Camden Council4654 7777
- Campbelltown City Council.....4645 4601
- Dept of Defence (Aust. Army)8782 4202
- Department of Environment and Climate Change National Parks and Wildlife Service
Sydney South Region.....9542 0666
Sydney Region.....9895 7440
- Dept of Lands.....9228 6666
- Dept of Primary Industries
Sydney Region - Hawkesbury.....4588 2100
Head Office - Orange.....4348 1900
- Fairfield City Council9725 0394
- Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority4587 0050
- Hawkesbury River County Council.....4587 0230
- Liverpool City Council.....1300 36 2170
- Mt Annan Botanic Garden.....4648 2477
- RailCorp131 500
- Roads and Traffic Authority131 700
- Sutherland Shire Council9710 0333
- Sydney Catchment Authority.....4725 2100
- Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority9895 7536
- Sydney Water13 20 92
- Wollondilly Shire Council4677 1100

sydneyweeds.org.au

CONTROL METHODS

- Noxious Weed**
N.B. Not all weeds are declared Noxious across all Council areas. Contact your local Council for a list of noxious weeds for your area, or visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au.
- Hand removal**
Suitable for plants which regrow from bulbs, tubers or other plant parts (such as runners). Hand pull or dig the seedlings.
- Stem scrape**
Suitable for vines and some woody plants. Scrape one side of the stem to expose the growing layer. Immediately apply glyphosate-based herbicide to the scrape.
- Cut and paint**
Suitable for vines without aerial tubers. Cut all stems and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.
- Cut stump**
Suitable for woody plants. Cut the trunk and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.
- Frill**
Suitable for trees. Make horizontal cuts around the trunk to depth of growing layer and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.
- Low volume spraying**
Suitable for weeds that are less than 1 metre in height. Spray with a herbicide that is registered for that weed. Do not spray woody weeds, shrubs or vines over 1 metre in height.
- Biological control**
Biocontrol agents are available for this weed. Biocontrol is important, but is also expensive and needs to be co-ordinated closely to ensure that maximum success is obtained in establishing the agent and controlling the weed. Biocontrol is not appropriate for use on individual properties. For more information, contact your local Council.

Special Note: Always use herbicides such as glyphosate according to the product label. Contact your local Council for further information and advice on spraying weeds with herbicide.

WEEDS OF THE SOUTH WEST SYDNEY REGION

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY

REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

The Committee is made up of land managers from local Councils and statutory authorities within the South West Sydney region.

The aims of the Committee are to:

- promote the co-ordination of noxious and environmental weed management at both the regional and catchment levels;
- provide a forum for information exchange between member organisations;
- increase awareness of noxious and environmental weeds in the broader community; and
- identify new problem weed species.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

A weed is any plant out of place. A **noxious** weed is one that legally must be controlled or removed under the NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993. Weeds are declared noxious if they pose a significant problem to human health, the environment (ie. "environmental" weeds), livestock or the agriculture industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

In the South West Sydney region, the waterways and natural bushland are under threat due to the invasion of environmental weeds. These 'introduced' plants have few predators and usually produce large quantities of seed and can out-compete or smother native plants. This makes them vigorous invaders, especially in disturbed areas and where soil nutrient levels are high, such as from stormwater pollution.

GARDEN ESCAPES

Environmental weeds usually begin life in someone's backyard. Common garden plants can be spread by birds eating the seed or people dumping garden clippings into the bush. Once these weeds take over an area, the character of the bushland changes, reducing habitat for native wildlife and altering fire regimes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Remove any weeds identified in this brochure using the recommended control methods as indicated.
2. Never dump garden waste in bushland areas. Compost garden clippings on-site or place in Council green-waste bins for collection.
3. Replace unwanted plants with locally indigenous native species.
4. Join or start a Volunteer Bush Regeneration (Bushcare) Group.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Publications:

Buchanan, R.A. (1989): Bush Regeneration – Recovering Australian Landscapes. TAFE, NSW.

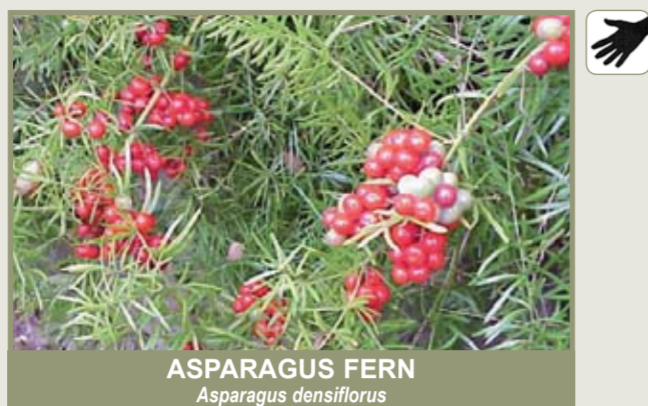
McLoughlin, L. and Rawling, J. (1991): Making Your Garden Bush Friendly. McLoughlin-Rawling Publications.

Brodie, L., Roxburgh, J. and Whaley, L. (1999): The National Trust Bush Regenerators Handbook. The National Trust of Australia (NSW).

Richardson, R.G. and F.J. & Shepherd, R.C.H. (2006): Weeds of the South-East – An identification Guide for Australia. CSIRO.

Websites: www.aabr.org.au
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds
www.sydneyweeds.org.au
www.weeds.crc.org.au
www.weeds.org.au

CLIMBERS/SCRAMBLERS



ASPARAGUS FERN
Asparagus densiflorus

Perennial shrub or scrambler, growing from thick tuberous roots formed on rhizomes. The plant can resprout from the crown, an area just below the ground where the stems join the roots. All of the crown must be cut out and removed. Leaf-like structures on brachlets are 5 – 15mm long. Branches grow to 60cm with a covering of small spines. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: White-pink clusters, flowering in late summer.
Fruit/Seed: Red berry, occurring winter/early spring.
Dispersal: Birds, dumping, rhizome growth.



BRIDAL CREEPER
Asparagus asparagoides - Weed of National Significance

Dense scrambler or climber with twisting stems to 3m long. Leaves are shiny green turning yellow and dying back in the summer. Underground mat of rhizomes that bear numerous fleshy tubers. Native to South Africa.

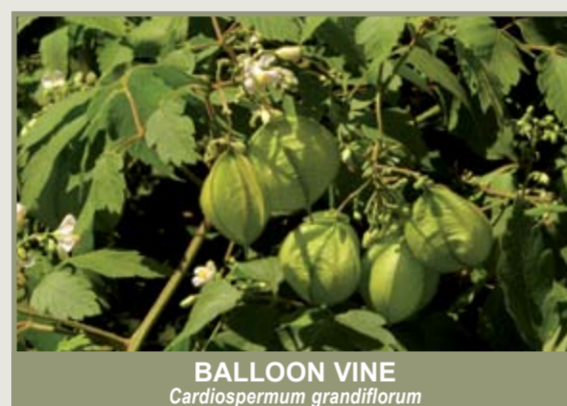
Flowers: Solitary white flowers in August-September. Each petal has a distinctive central green stripe.
Fruit/Seed: Produces pea-sized green berries which ripen to pink then red/burgundy in late spring-early summer, each berry contains 1 to 9 black seeds.
Dispersal: Birds, water, dumping and rhizome growth.



BLACKBERRY
Rubus fruticosus (Aggsp) - Weed of National Significance

Shrub with scrambling stems generally 2 to 3 metres high, growing from a woody, stocky rhizome with several lateral roots. The stems are green, purplish or red and are covered in prickles. Leaves have 3 to 5 leaflets, are usually dark green on top with a lighter green underside and often shed in winter. The leaf veins and stalks are covered with short prickles. Native to Europe.

Flowers: White or pink, flowers with 5 petals in spring to summer.
Fruit/Seed: Produces clusters of green berries which ripen to red and then black in late summer.
Dispersal: Birds, foxes, re-rooting stems, dumping. Roots sucker after fire.



BALLOON VINE
Cardiospermum grandiflorum

Vigorous climber growing as high as can be supported. Has the ability to kill native plants by smothering and blocking out sunlight. Common in wet areas especially along urban creeks. Native to tropical Asia, Africa and America

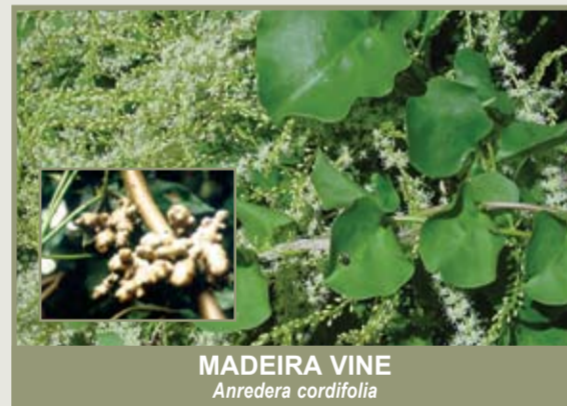
Flowers: White flowers, occurring in mid-summer.
Fruit/Seed: Pale green balloon-like papery capsule enclosing 3 black seeds. Seeds are produced in autumn.
Dispersal: By wind (whilst still attached to papery capsule) and water along adjacent creeklines.



MORNING GLORY
Ipomoea indica

A vigorous twining herbaceous perennial climber, growing to the tops of tree canopies and forming dense blankets of foliage over all vegetation. Leaves are large and light green with a heart-shaped base, and usually have three lobes. Both leaves and stems are hairy. Common in moist, disturbed places. Native to tropical regions.

Flowers: Distinct funnel-shaped violet-blue flowers 5 to 8cm in diameter occurring anytime of the year, particularly in warmer months.
Fruit/Seed: Does not set seed in Australia.
Dispersal: Spreads from dumping. Stem fragments root down to form new plants where they contact the ground.



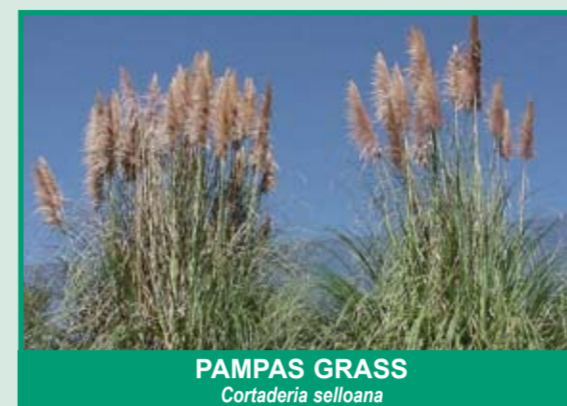
MADEIRA VINE
Arendera cordifolia

Aggressive, rampant twining perennial climber which races to the canopy, curtaining all vegetation with its thick succulent stems and dense foliage. Leaves are heart-shaped, hairless, shiny, thick and fleshy. Stems bear aerial tubers which form clusters high in the vine; tubers also grow below ground on rhizomes. Invades disturbed areas and areas with fertile soils. Native to South America.

Flowers: Greenish-cream-white "lamb's tail" sprays in autumn.
Fruit/Seed: Reproduction is mainly vegetative by the growth of aerial tubers. Underground tubers survive after disturbance. This weed has recently started to seed in some parts of Australia.
Dispersal: Aerial tubers fallen to the ground after disturbance will take root and generate new plants. Dumping, spread by water down drainage lines.



GRASSES



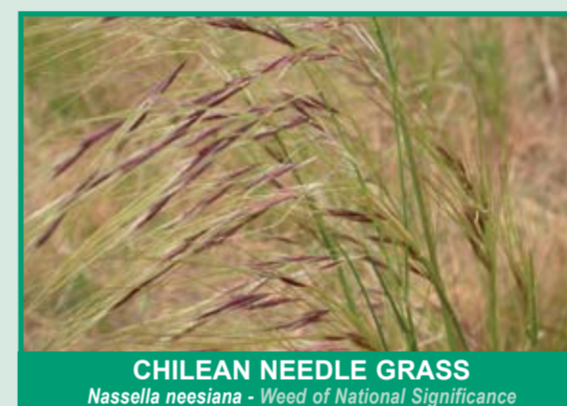
PAMPAS GRASS
Cortaderia selloana

Large long-lived perennial tussock over 2m high with many fluffy seed heads (up to 3m high) and sharp, cutting leaves. Native to South America.

Flowers: White, pale pink or pale mauve flowers in summer.
Fruit/Seed: Each plume produces up to 100,000 seeds in late summer/autumn.

Dispersal: Seeds are 2mm long allowing travel of up to 40km on wind currents. Also dispersed in waterways.

Special Note: Smaller clumps can be dug out. **Bushfire Hazard, especially in areas of dense infestation. Leaves are highly flammable when dry. Sharp leaf edges contain silica.**



CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS
Nassella neesiana - Weed of National Significance

A perennial tussock grass, grows in dense clumps to 1m high with sharp, pointed seeds. Native to South America.

Leaves: 1-5mm wide, flat and strongly ribbed on their upper surface, leaf edges are rough to touch.

Flowers/Seed: Seed heads are a distinctive purplish colour with seeds very sharp at the point. Flowers September to December.

Dispersal: Seeds readily attach to animals, clothing and machinery. Also dispersed via floodwaters.

Special Note: For large infestations, a combination of control methods including pasture sowing and grazing management is required.



AFRICAN LOVEGRASS
Eragrostis curvula

Tufted perennial grass to 1 metre high. Seed head often with weeping habit. Native to Southern Africa.

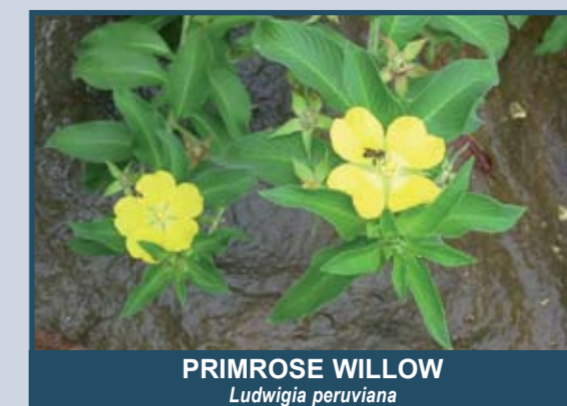
Leaves: Leaves vary in width and in colour, from bright green to blue-green. The leaves often curl at the tip. Appendage at base of leaf (ligule) a hairy rim to 1mm long.

Flowers/Seed: Up to 30cm long. Flowers mostly summer to autumn. Erect, open or compact seedhead, with a lead-grey or grey-green appearance. Seeds cream to brown about 1mm long.

Dispersal: Seed can be spread short distances by wind, and is also dispersed by animals, machinery and vehicles.



AQUATICS



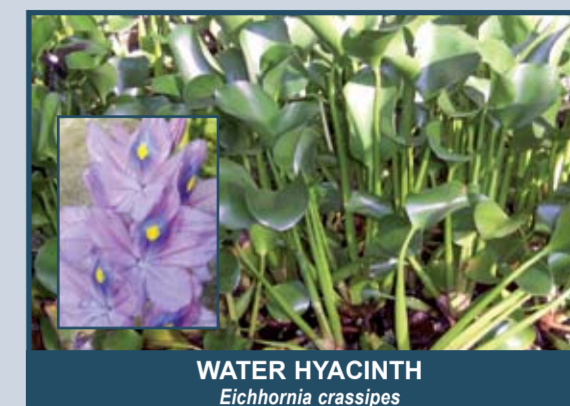
PRIMROSE WILLOW
Ludwigia peruviana

Fast growing terrestrial or partially submerged shrub to 4m tall, usually confined to freshwater creek lines, banks and wetlands. It is vigorously opportunistic, clogging waterways and dominating over all other water and creek bank plants. Native to Central and South America.

Flowers: Bright yellow, solitary flowers with 4-5 petals in early autumn.

Fruit/Seed: Herbaceous, erect capsules containing around 3200 sticky and pepper-like seeds.

Dispersal: Seed explosion from capsule into water and spread by birds and human activity.



WATER HYACINTH
Eichhornia crassipes

Free-floating aquatic perennial herb growing in shallow to deep water/mud with stems 30-65cm tall. Bright, shiny green leaves on swollen bladder-like stems. Native to Brazil.

Flowers: Showy large mauve flowers with yellow centres, from January to March.

Fruit/Seed: Seed may lay dormant for many years in capsules at base of flower.

Dispersal: Water, dumping, birds and aquatic plant suppliers. Also reproduces vegetatively.



SALVINIA
Salvinia molesta - Weed of National Significance

Rapidly growing free floating, mat forming aquatic fern capable of totally covering still or slowly moving waterways. Its presence significantly reduces waterway values. Native to South America.

Flowers: Does not produce flowers.

Fruit/Seed: Does not produce fruit or seed.

Dispersal: Reproduces vegetatively and is spread by aquatic plant suppliers, home ponds, dumping, animals, water movement, wind, boats and flooding.

Special Note: Contact your local Council for advice on control and correct disposal.



LONGLEAF LUDWIGIA
Ludwigia longifolia

Annual shrub to 3m tall from central South America. Alternate long, narrow 15cm leaves reduce in size up the stem. Stems red, narrow, winged and branch towards the apex. Squared stems and fruits and lack of hairs distinguish it from native look-alikes.

Flowers: Single yellow 4-5 petalled flowers in upper leaves, most prolific in summer and autumn.

Fruit/Seed: Oblong, hairless fruits 1-3.5cm long contain numerous tiny seeds in four internal compartments. The fruits turn light brown and eventually split to release their seeds.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by water, wind, animals and human activities. Stems detach during floods and take root.



ALLIGATOR WEED
Alternanthera philoxeroides - Weed of National Significance

Terrestrial or aquatic (floating or rooted emergent) perennial herb found in slow moving and stationary waters forming large mats of interwoven roots and stems. Native to South America.

Flowers: Silvery white flowers in January to March.

Fruit/Seed: Seeds produced but rarely viable under Australian conditions. Reproduction is entirely vegetative.

Dispersal: As new hollow stems are produced, old stems lose their leaves and become prostrate, thickening the underlying mat of this vigorous creeper. Can seriously impair water flow. Dispersed by water flow, dumping and machinery.

Special Note: Contact your local Council for advice on control and correct disposal. The fleshy tap roots are brittle and hard to control by spraying with existing herbicides. May be confused with the native Lesser joyweed (*Alternanthera denticulata*).



SENEGAL TEA PLANT
Gymnocoronis spilanthoides

Sometimes an erect, rounded bush up to 1m tall, but more commonly a scrambler on the edge of waterways forming dense tangled mats in open water. Hollow (between the nodes) floating stems can reach 1.5m. Spearhead-shaped leaves are dark green, opposite along the stem, with serrated edges. Native to Central and South America.

Flowers: Numerous, white, ball-shaped flowers occur at the ends of stems.

Fruit/Seed: Ribbed yellow-brown seeds are 5mm in diameter.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by flowing water, and in mud attached to animals or machinery. Roots can develop at any node that is in contact with moist soil or immersed in water.

Special Note: This weed is on the National Environmental Alert List. Do not attempt control on your own, as it can spread very easily from dislodged fragments. Report any findings to your local Council.



For your safety when treating weeds

Follow safe work practices • Wear protective clothing • Always read and follow the instructions on the herbicide label

For information about which herbicides to use, refer to the annual Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook. For a copy, phone NSW Department of Primary Industries on 4588 2100 or visit www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/weeds-general/nox-weeds-splash.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Images by Virginia Bear, Adam Burrows, Hillary Cherry, Peter Cuneo, Simon Davis, DPI VIC, DPI NSW, Charles Grech, Rob Gleeson, Jenna Hore, Sandy Leighton, Jo Lynch, Paul Maryniss, Luke McLachlan, Geoff Sainty, Sutherland Shire Council and Colin G. Wilson.

Control logos courtesy of Lismore City Council. Design by POD Graphics and Olive Graphic Design. 2007 update by Lint Graphic Design. Printed June 2007