

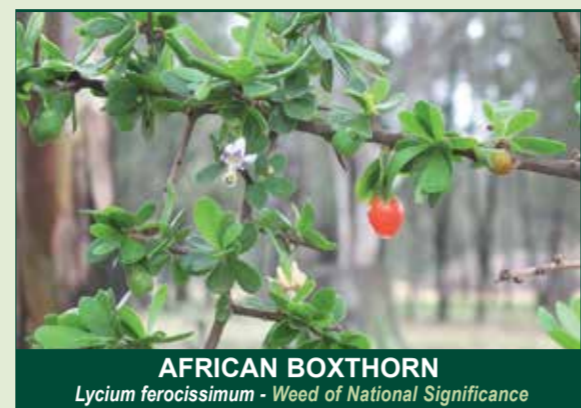
TREES AND SHRUBS



PRIVET
Ligustrum lucidum (Broad)/Ligustrum sinense (Small)

Very common tree (4 to 10m) and tall shrub (up to 3m), found in most areas in gullies and home gardens. Broad leaf sp. has large dark green leaves arranged.

Flowers: Small, white, strongly scented flowers in summer.
Fruit/Seed: Sprays of purple-black berries occurring in winter.
Dispersal: Birds and water.
Special Note: Similar to the native Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), which has oil glands in its leaves.



AFRICAN BOXTHORN
Lycium ferocissimum - Weed of National Significance

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.
Special Note: Care must be taken in removal as thorns can cause deep wounds.



AFRICAN OLIVE
Olea europaea ssp. 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 stem.
Fruit/Seed: Green berries in winter ripening to purple-black. Produces thousands of seeds.
Dispersal: Foxes and birds.



BITOU BUSH/BONESEED *Weed of National Significance*
Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotundata/sp. monilifera

Shrub to 2m. There are two forms: a thicket forming coastal dune variety with rounded leaves (subspecies rotunda). An erect, upright plant with coarsely toothed leaves (subspecies monilifera). 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, birds and animals.



MOTHER OF MILLIONS
Bryophyllum spp.

Slender erect perennial succulent, with pinkish-brown or greyish stems up to 60cm high with thick waxy leaves. Native to Madagascar.

Flowers: Tubular red to orange flowers, forming drooping clusters at the top of long stalks. From May to October.
Fruit/Seed: Reproduces by seed and by the formation of tiny plantlets on leaf tips, which drop off to form new plants. Broken vegetative material can also take root.
Dispersal: Dumping of garden waste, soil movement, animals, vehicles and machinery. Seed by wind and water.



AGAPANTHUS
Agaypalis spp.

An erect herb with protruding flower stems to 1.2m. Leaves are long, strap-like, glossy and dark green. Dwarf forms are common in horticulture. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Blue or white tubular flowers, held in large spherical clusters.
Fruit/Seed: Black, winged seeds are enclosed in leathery green capsules that dry to pale brown.
Dispersal: Clumping rhizomes that out compete other plants; by seed, soil movement, wind, waterways and dumping.



KUDZU
Pueraria lobata

Kudzu is a trailing or twining vine with stems up to 3m long, and large underground tubers. There are 3 separate leaves per leaf stem, 7-15cm wide. It is aggressively invasive and is able to rapidly smother supporting vegetation. A serious threat to Australian bushland. Native to Asia and New Guinea.

Flowers: Fragrant flowers. Purple, blue or pink with a yellow center.
Fruit/Seed: Seedpods are brown, bean shaped and hairy. They contain 3-10 small oval seeds.
Dispersal: Spread by seed and rooting of runners at nodes underground.



KEI APPLE
Dovyalis caffra

A small evergreen tree to 8m, though commonly 3-5m. Dark green, waxy leaves. Bark is grey and smooth, or fissured and corky when mature. Branches can have spines up to 7cm long. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Small, creamy green flowers occurring in dense clusters.
Fruit/Seed: The fruits are round and fleshy, up to 6cm in diameter. Orange-yellow colored, with velvet skin when ripe.
Dispersal: Birds consume and spread seeds.



CLIMBING ASPARAGUS/ASPARGUS FERN
Asparagus plumosus (Climbing)/Asparagus aethiopicus (Fern)

Weed of National Significance
Asparagus native to South Africa. Characterized by a dense mat of underground roots or fleshy tubers. Branches shoot from a central point-the 'crown'. All of the crown must be cut out and removed.

A. plumosus: Climbs to 5m.
Thorny, woody stems, fern like leaves.
A. aethiopicus: Multi-branched ground cover.
Feathery fern like leaves.
Branches to 60cm, small spines.
White- pink flowers and red berries.



SICKLETHORN/BRIDAL CREEPER
Asparagus falcatos (Sicklethorn)/Asparagus asparagoides (B. Creeper)

Weed of National Significance
Asparagus native to South Africa. Characterized by a dense mat of underground roots or fleshy tubers. Branches shoot from a central point-the 'crown'. All of the crown must be cut out and removed.

A. falcatos: Woody stems, large hooked thorns.
Sickle shaped dark green leaves.
White-pink flowers and red berries.
A. asparagoides: Climber, wiry stem, shiny green, tapering leaves.
Solitary white flowers and red berries.



stop the spread

Weeds are Spoiling our Environment



Sydney Weeds Committees
sydneyweeds.org.au

SYDNEY WEST BLUE MOUNTAINS

REGIONAL WEEDS CONTACTS LOCAL CONTROL AUTHORITIES

- Auburn Council9735 1222
- Blue Mountains City Council*4780 5000
- Dept. of Crown Lands.....1300 886 235
- Forestry Corporation of NSW.....1300 655 687
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services4725 3050
- Hawkesbury River County Council.....4574 9600
- (HRCC) controls weeds in:
 - The Hills Shire Council.....9843 0555
 - Blacktown City Council9839 6000
 - Hawkesbury City Council4560 4444
 - Penrith City Council4732 7777
- Holroyd City Council9840 9840
- NSW Invasive Plants and Animals Enquiry Line1800 680 244
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service Cumberland Area North region (Windsor area)4572 3100
- Office of Environment and Heritage/National Parks1300 361 967
- Parramatta City Council9806 5050
- Penrith Lakes Development Corporation4729 0044
- Roads and Traffic Authority131 700
- Sydney Rail1300 656 999
- Sydney Water132 092
- Water NSW4724 2200

*There are many weeds that are more commonly found in areas of high altitudes. Contact Blue Mountains City Council for a free copy of the booklet Weeds of the Blue Mountains Bushland.
www.weedsbluemountains.org.au

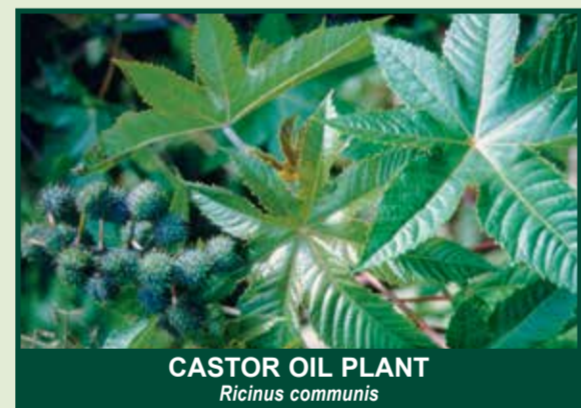
Or for more info...
info@sydneyweeds.org.au



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. Is often habitat for snakes and feral pests.



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.

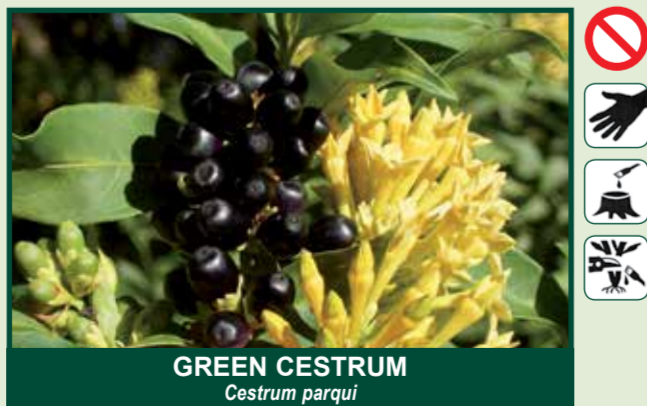
Flowers: Reddish green flowers in summer.
Fruit/Seed: Green to black spiny fruit capsule occurring in autumn.
Dispersal: Seed explosion from capsule, water.
Special Note: Seeds are highly toxic to humans and animals.



BLACKBERRY
Rubus fruticosus - 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, with 5 petals, 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.



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.

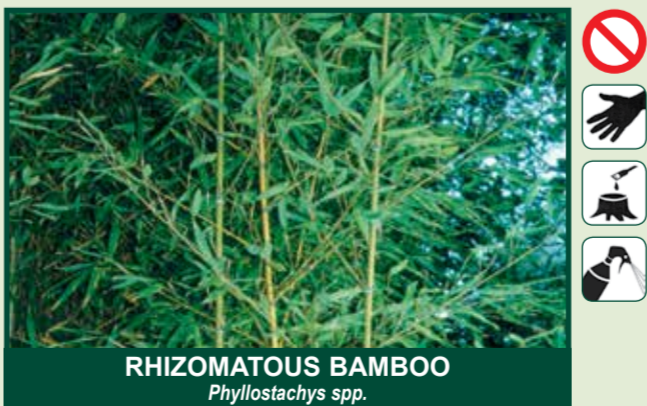
Flowers: Sprays of small tubular yellow-green flowers on end of stems from late spring to autumn.
Fruit/Seed: Shiny black egg shaped berries in clusters.
Dispersal: Birds and water.
Special Note: Highly poisonous to livestock, particularly cattle, and can be toxic to humans.



CORAL TREE
Erythrina x sykesii

A medium sized deciduous tree with grey-green bark and small rose-like thorns. The bright green leaves are compound, with three large roughly triangular leaflets, the central one on a much longer stalk than the two side leaflets. Can be confused with Cockspur Coral (E. crista-galli). Native to South America.

Flowers: Red, about 5cm long, enclosed in a single large folded petal, in large clusters.
Fruit/Seed: Not produced in Australia.
Dispersal: Fallen branches, dumped prunings. Any piece of the plant left in contact with the ground can take root.



RHIZOMATOUS BAMBOO
Phyllostachys spp.

Woody plant to 6m high with underground runners (rhizomes). Cultivated as ornamentals, they may become weeds in gardens, bushland and wasteland. Native to Asia. All species have a groove on alternating sides of stems.

Flowers: Rarely if ever flowers.
Fruit/Seed: Does not produce fruit.
Dispersal: Produces erect shoots from rhizomes, forming loosely clumped shoots over large areas. Spread by dumping.



LANTANA
Lantana spp. - 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. All Lantana species except *L. montevidensis* are classified weeds in NSW. 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*).



CONTROL METHODS

- Noxious Weed**
The weed is noxious for some councils in the region. Contact your council to find what is noxious in your area.
- 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 SYDNEY WEST REGION

SYDNEY WEST – BLUE MOUNTAINS

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 weeds.

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 agricultural industry.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

In the Sydney West – Blue Mountains 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

Weeds usually begin life in someone's backyard. Common garden plants can be spread through birds eating the seed or people dumping garden clippings into the bush.

IMPACT OF WEEDS

Weeds cost the agricultural industry around \$4 billion per year, by contaminating produce, poisoning livestock, interfering with harvesting and reducing crop quality and yield.

A comparably high cost is spent controlling weeds within the environment. Weeds can reduce biodiversity and threaten ecological communities. In aquatic systems they can consume available oxygen and cause ecosystem 'die-off', along with water contamination.

Weeds can also damage infrastructure, increase the risk of fire through added fuel load, and some weeds have well-documented negative effects on human health.

Prevention and/or early eradication of weeds is much easier, more effective and cheaper. That's why we want the community to keep a look out for plants that are "out of place."

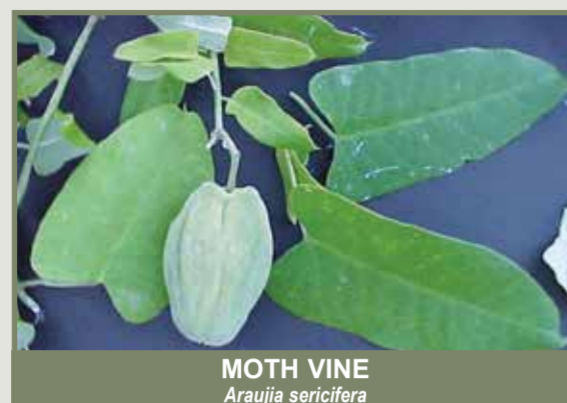
WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Remove any weeds identified in this brochure using the indicated control methods.
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. (www.growmeinstead.com.au)
4. Join or start a Volunteer Bush Regeneration (Bushcare) Group.
5. Take weeds of concern to a professional for further identification (transport in a sealed plastic bag).
6. Ensure machinery, work vehicles and boats are washed down before entering native bushland, botanic gardens or aquatic systems.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

www.aabr.org.au
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pestsweeds
www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/noxious_weeds
www.northcoastweeds.org.au
<http://plantnet.rbgsgyd.nsw.gov.au>
www.sydneeweeds.org.au
www.weeds.org.au
www.northwestweeds.com.au

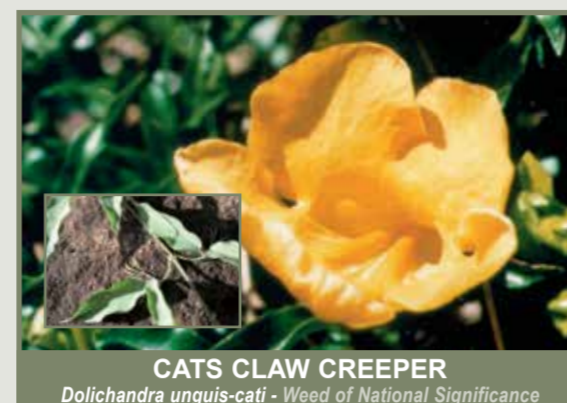
CLIMBERS/SCRAMBLERS



MOTH VINE
Araujia sericifera

Climber with twining stems, climbing to 6m on supporting vegetation. Triangular leaves, 3-11cm long. Pear shaped fruit looks like a choko, turning brown and woody with age. Milky latex is exuded from damaged stems and leaves. Native to South America.

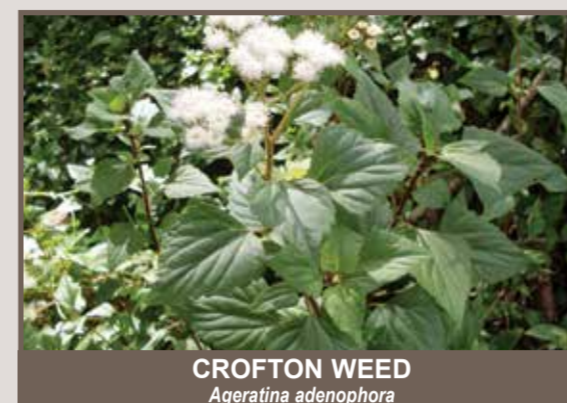
Flowers: White, cream or pale pink flower clusters.
Fruit/Seed: The fruit splits into numerous black seeds, which have tufts of white silky hairs.
Dispersal: Wind blown seeds.



CATS CLAW CREEPER
Dolichandra unguis-cati - Weed of National Significance

Vigorous woody climber with stems to 20m or more. Dark green, opposite leaves are made up of 2 tapering leaflets and a 3-clawed tendril. Plants grow from swollen underground tubers. Grows vigorously in shady, damp areas. Serious weed that can smother large trees. Native to Argentina and Brazil.

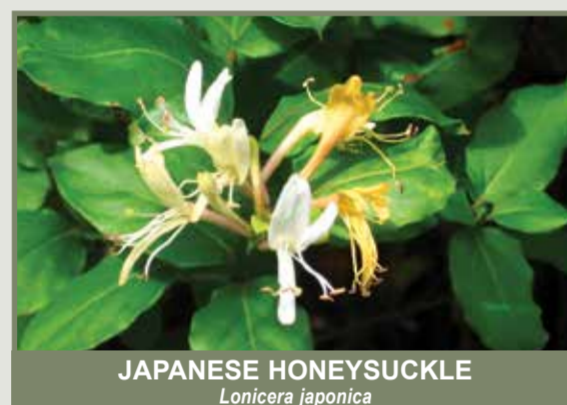
Flowers: Large, tubular yellow flowers, 4 to 8cm long. With orange lines in the tube. Flowers in spring.
Fruit/Seed: Long, thin capsule up to 45cm long containing winged seeds.
Dispersal: Water, wind and dumping.



CROFTON WEED
Ageratina adenophora

A multi-stemmed perennial to 2m forming dense stands. Leaves opposite, soft, thin, triangle shaped, with a toothed edge and conspicuous veins. Underground tap root with extensive fibrous root system. Plant may cause allergic reactions. Found along roadsides and watercourses. Native to Central America.

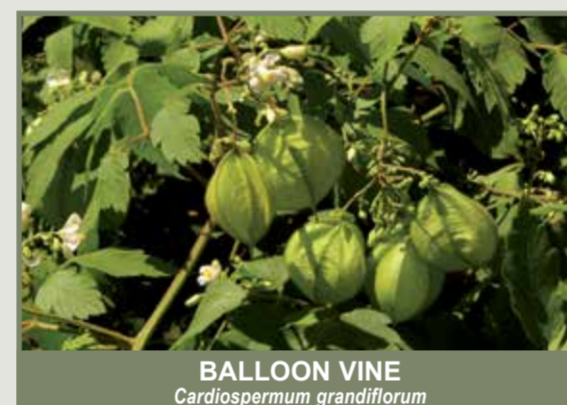
Flowers: Dense clusters of white sticky hairy flowers in spring and summer.
Fruit/Seed: Very small, light, brown to black seeds with a 4mm 'parachute' of white hairs, mid to late spring.
Dispersal: Water, wind, vehicles, fur.



JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE
Lonicera japonica

A vigorous, fast growing climber producing a tangle of twining woody stems. Commonly found in moist gullies. Adult leaves are oval shaped and in opposite pairs on the stem.

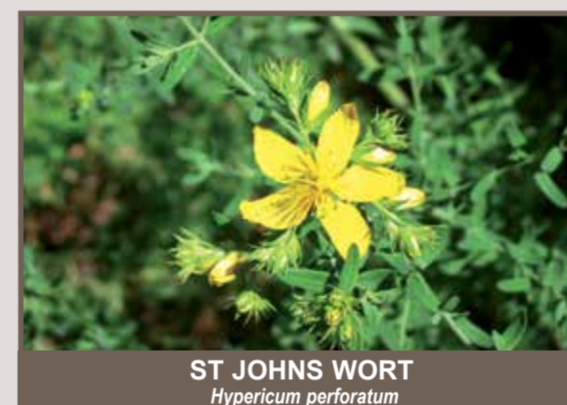
Flowers: Flowers are white to yellow in colour, fragrant and tube like.
Fruit/Seed: Small shiny black berries in autumn.
Dispersal: Birds and dumped garden clippings.



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.



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 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.**



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
Anredera cordifolia - Weed of National Significance

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.



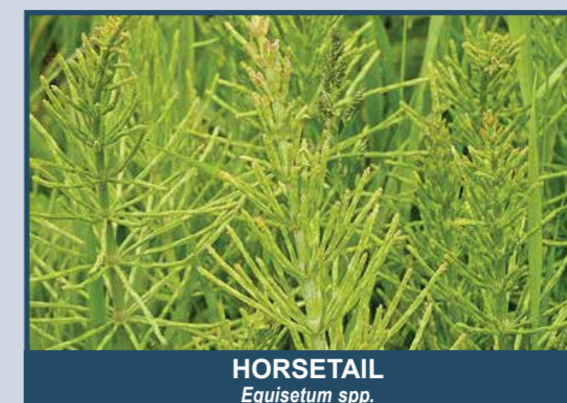
TRAD
(Formerly Wandering Jew) Tradescantia fluminensis

A vigorously growing, spreading groundcover, with alternating dark, shiny leaves and weak roots at each node. Succulent. 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: Water and dumping. Can reproduce from a leaf or stem fragment.
Special Note: **May be confused with Commelina cyanea, which has blue flowers and thick, fleshy roots.**



GROUNDCOVERS/HERBS



HORSETAIL
Equisetum spp.

An upright perennial herb, largest species to 120cm. Two types of segmented stems are produced: non fruit producing, green, branched and hollow stems; and pale-brown, un-branched stems, that die off after producing fruit cones at tips. Plant is mostly rhizomatous, with stems stretching up to 100m horizontally underground, shooting out roots at intervals. Native to the northern hemisphere.

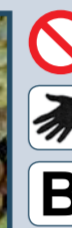
Flowers: None.
Fruit/Seed: Fruiting cones 1-4cm in length and produce pale-greenish to yellow spores. Spores need moist conditions to survive and germinate.
Dispersal: Shooting from any part of rhizomes, via dumping of garden waste, soil transportation or natural breaking of mature plants. Spores can be spread by water and wind.



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 quality. 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.



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.



AQUATICS

Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal



WATER HYACINTH
Eichhornia crassipes - Weed of National Significance

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

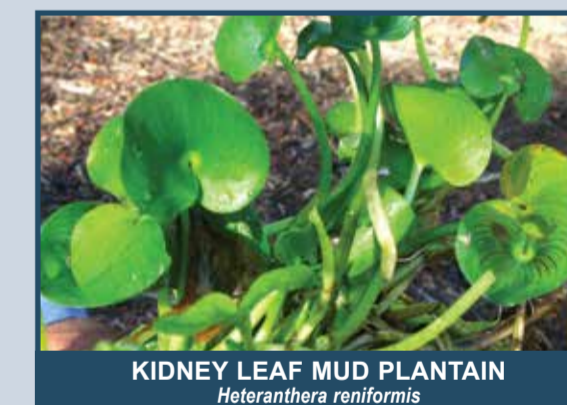
Flowers: Showy large mauve flowers with yellow centres, from January to March.
Fruit/Seed: Seed may lay dormant for many years in capsules at base of flower.
Dispersal: Water, dumping, birds and aquatic plant suppliers. Also reproduces vegetatively.



LUDWIGIA, WATER PRIMROSE
Ludwigia peruviana

Annual shrub to 3m from South America. Alternate, narrow 15cm leaves reduce in size up stem. Stems are red and branch towards apex. Squared stems, fruit and lack of hairs distinguish it from natives.

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 tiny seeds in four internal compartments. 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.



KIDNEY LEAF MUD PLANTAIN
Heteranthera reniformis

A sprawling herb to 50cm tall, found submerged, floating in shallow water (less than 15cm deep), and on damp soil at waters edge. Can rapidly form dense mats when not shaded by other plants. Leaves are kidney-shaped, bright green and glossy, up to 5cm wide, and arranged alternately along stems. Roots occur at nodes along the stem. Native to North, Central and South America.

Flowers: White to pale blue, in summer and autumn. Open approx. 3 hours after sunrise and wilt by early afternoon.
Fruit/Seed: Capsules 0.5-0.9 mm long, with 8-14 winged seeds. Long lifespan in soil.
Dispersal: Reproduces vegetatively from any part of broken stem, can be dispersed by water, animals and by mud on vehicles. Seeds by wind and water.



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 available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Sydney Weeds Committees would like to acknowledge those who have contributed photographs, information and assistance to current and earlier editions of this brochure. Any photos provided through NSW Department of Industry remain © State of New South Wales. We also acknowledge the use of free public images from sources such as Wikipedia and Google Images. Control logos courtesy of Lismore Council. Design by POD Graphics and Olive Graphic Design, updates by Lint Graphic Design. Printed in 2016.