WEEDS OF COASTAL SYDNEY

COASTAL SYDNEY

WEEDS CONTACTS

Local councils in COASTAL Sydney:

Bayside Council.....9562 1666
Central Coast Council..... 4306 7900
City of Sydney..... 92659333
Mosman Council 9978 4000
Northern Beaches Council 1300 434 434
North Sydney Council..... 9936 8100
Randwick City Council 9093 6000
Sutherland Shire Council.....9710 0333
Waverley Council..... 9083 8000
Willoughby City Council 9777 1000
Woollahra Municiple Council.....9391 7000

Other sources of information:

Greater Sydney Local
Land Services.....1300 795 299

NSW Invasive Plants
and Animals Enquiry Line 1800 680 244

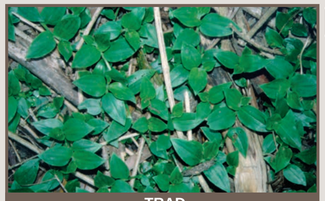
NSW Department of Primary Industries -
WeedWise.....http://weeds.dpi.nsw.au

Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney -
Plantnet.....https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Please also visit
Sydney Weeds Network's website

info@sydneyweeds.org.au

GROUNDCOVERS/HERBS



TRAD
(formerly called Wandering Jew) *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: 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.

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 light, small brown to black seeds with a 4mm 'parachute' of white hairs, mid to late spring.
Dispersal: Water, wind, vehicles, fur.

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.

FOUNTAIN GRASS
Pennisetum setaceum

A densely tufted perennial from Ethiopia which grows to 90cm high. The inflorescence is a long, pink, feathery spike with an arching habit. Leaves thin and leathery with prominent veins running lengthways.

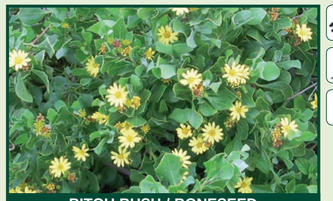
Flowers: Small, in pink or purple, bristly, upright spikes at the ends of bamboo-like canes.
Fruit/Seed: Fruit is small and dry with long, showy bristles. Adapted to colonising after fires – displacing natives and increasing fuel loads.
Dispersal: Humans and wind, also animals and water.

TREES AND SHRUBS

PRIVET
Ligustrum lucidum (broad) / *Ligustrum sinense* (small)

Very common tree (4 to 10m) and tall shrub (up to 3m), found in moist areas in gullies and home gardens. Broad leaf species has large dark green leaves arranged opposite on the stem, paler underside. Small leaf species has small narrow, wavy leaves.

Flowers: Small, white, strongly scented flowers.
Fruit/Seed: Sprays of purple black berries occurring in winter.
Dispersal: Birds, water and dumping.
Special Note: May be confused with the native Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*). The Lilly Pilly has oil glands in its leaves.



BITOU BUSH / BONESEED
Chrysanthemoides monilifera – Weed of National Significance

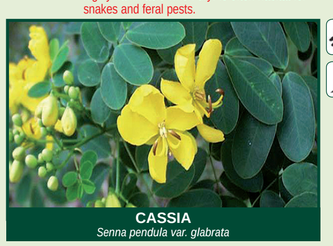
Shrub to 2m. There are two forms: a thicket forming coastal dune variety with rounded leaves (subspecies *rotundata*). An erect, upright plant with coarsely toothed leaves (subspecies *monilifera*). Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Golden yellow, daisy flowers appearing mostly in spring to early summer.
Fruit/Seed: The fruit is a purplish black berry occuring in clusters and ripening in summer, 6 to 8mm.
Dispersal: Birds.

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 and can 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. Is often habitat for snakes and feral pests.



CASSIA
Senna pendula var. glabrata

Small tree to 5m tall. Leaves are in 3-5 pairs of oval dark green leaflets, opposite each other on the stem.

Flowers: Masses of bright yellow clusters on the ends of branches in March – April.
Fruit/Seed: Pods to 8cm long, each containing 5-10 seeds each. Very long lived.
Dispersal: Seeds spread by birds, insects, gravity, humans and water.

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 at the junction of leaves and stem. Flowering in spring.
Fruit/Seed: Green berries in winter ripening to purple-black. Produces thousands of seeds.
Dispersal: Foxes and birds.

CAPE BROOM
Genista monspessulana – Weed of National Significance

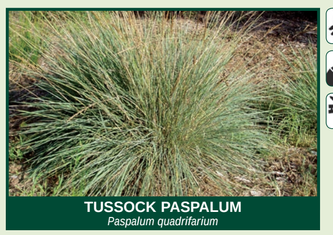
Erect woody evergreen shrub to 3m high with one main stem and numerous branches. Leaves are bluish green & grouped in threes. Common along forest margins and disturbed sites. Native to the Mediterranean region.

Flowers: Bright yellow, pea-like flowers in late winter.
Fruit/Seed: Brown/black flat silky pods containing 5 to 8 seeds in spring.
Dispersal: Spread by machinery and also spread locally when pods burst open on hot days.

CHINESE CELTIS
Celtis sinensis

A large tree to 20m, with a spreading, dense tree canopy. It has mottled grey bark, with elliptical leaves that are alternate on the stem and 4-7cm long. The upper half of the leaf margins are finely serrated.

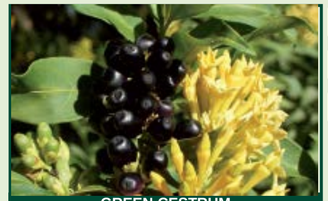
Flowers: None.
Fruit/Seed: Produces thousands of small reddish brown-orange berries.
Dispersal: Birds, and commonly planted as a street or ornamental tree.



TUSSOCK PASPALUM
Paspalum quadrifarium

A grass with sharp edged leaves which grows in clumps to one square metre in size. Its seed head extends another metre above the leaves. The plant has a blue/green appearance, and is often found on neglected land of low fertility.

Flowers: 12-30cm long with rust coloured racemes all year, mostly spring to autumn.
Fruit/Seed: Appears to produce seed at least twice a year.
Dispersal: Seeds spread by water, animals and human activities. Horizontal rhizomes send up suckers near parent plant.



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.

OCHNA, MICKEY MOUSE PLANT
Ochna serrulata

Hardy shrub to 2m high grown commonly as garden hedge. Shiny, fine toothed and wavy leaves. Removal is made difficult due to the extended taproot. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Yellow flowers in spring.
Fruit/Seed: Crown of black berries surrounded by red "petals" occurring in autumn.
Dispersal: Birds and dumping of clippings.

RHUS
Toxicodendron succedaneum

A shrub/small deciduous tree to 4m. 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).

CASTOR OIL PLANT
Ricinus communis

Tall shrub to 3m high common in waste 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 occuring in autumn. Seeds are speckled and bean-like.
Dispersal: Seed explosion from capsule, animals, human activity and water.
Special Note: Seeds are highly toxic to humans and animals.

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 weeds in NSW. Native to South America.

Flowers: Small clusters of red, pink or yellow flowers.
Fruit/Seed: Black berries, fruiting most heavily in summer.
Dispersal: Birds, dumping, branches re-rooting

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

CONTROL METHODS

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 COASTAL SYDNEY

COASTAL SYDNEY

The **Sydney Weeds Network Inc.** is a small not-for-profit association made up of three subnetworks: Coastal, Central and West.

This brochure has been produced for the communities in the local council areas in the **Coastal Sydney** subnetwork.

More information about the Sydney Weeds Network Inc. can be found at www.sydneyweeds.org.au and you can contact us via email - info@sydneyweeds.org.au

WHAT IS A WEED?

A weed is any plant that is out of place.

In the Sydney Coastal subnetwork area, beaches, gardens, parks, reserves, waterways and the remaining remnants of natural bushland are under threat from the invasion of weeds, such as those shown in this brochure. Weeds can reduce biodiversity and threaten endangered ecological communities. In aquatic systems they can consume available oxygen and cause fish kills and contamination the water.

If left unchecked weeds can also pose significant risks to human health, pets, livestock and the agricultural industry. They can also damage infrastructure and increase the risk of fire through added fuel load,

These introduced plants have few predators and usually produce vast quantities of seed, and so out-compete or smother native and garden plants. This makes them vigorous invaders, especially in disturbed areas and where soil nutrient levels are high.

Weeds usually begin life in someone's backyard. Common garden plants can become weeds. They can be spread by birds and other animals eating the seed or people dumping garden clippings in parks and the bush.

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'.

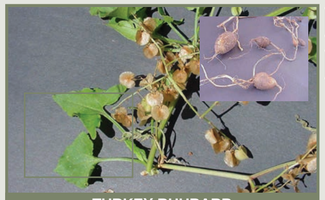
WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Remove any weeds identified in this brochure using the suggested control methods.
2. Never dump garden waste in bushland areas. Compost garden clippings on-site or place in your council green-waste bin for collection.
3. Replace unwanted plants with local native species. Visit www.growmeinstead.com.au for some excellent suggestions.
4. Join or start a volunteer bushcare group.
5. Take weeds of concern to your local council for further identification (transport in a sealed plastic bag).
6. Ensure machinery, work vehicles and boats are washed down before entering bushland, nature reserves, botanic gardens or waterways.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

www.sydneyweeds.org.au
www.aabr.org.au
http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/floraonline.htm http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au

CLIMBERS/SCRAMBLERS



TURKEY RHUBARB
Acetosa sagittata

Vigorous prostrate or climbing perennial herb to 5m long with large underground connected tubers and arrow head shaped leaves on long stalks. Tubers whitish and parsnip shaped when young, turning purple and swollen with age. Stems often streaked with pink. Found in damp, disturbed areas. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Clusters of small, green-purple flowers at the ends of stems spring to autumn.
Fruit/Seed: 3-winged, cream/pink paper-like seed structures to 1cm in summer/autumn.
Dispersal: Wind and water, tubers spread laterally underground.

ASPARAGUS FERN/CLIMBING ASPARAGUS
Asparagus aethiopicus/plumosus – Weed of National Significance

Multi-branched herb growing from a scaly base ("crown"), connected to tubers and roots underground that form a dense mat. The plant can re- sprout from the crown if it is not completely removed. Leaves are small and arranged to resemble feathery fern leaves. Branches grow to 60cm with a covering of small spines. The climbing variety has woody rigid stems.

Flowers: White-pink clusters small greenish-white clusters along the stem (Climbing Asparagus).
Fruit/Seed: Red berries (Asparagus Fern); green berries ripening to black (Climbing Asparagus).
Dispersal: Birds, dumping, rhizome growth.

BRIDAL CREEPER
Asparagus asparagoides – Weed of National Significance

A dense scrambler or climber with wiry stems to 3m growing from a tough underground rhizome surrounded by clusters of fleshy, food-storing cylindrical tubers. Alternate, shiny green leaves are rounded at the base and taper to a pointed tip. Leaves turn yellow and die back in summer, reshooting in autumn. Entwining root systems form dense underground mats that prevent other plants from establishing. Native to South Africa.

Flowers: Scented solitary white flowers in August-September. Each petal has a distinctive central green stripe.
Fruit/Seed: Green pea-sized berries, turning pink then burgundy.
Dispersal: Birds, water, dumping and rhizome growth.

BLACKBERRY
Rubus fruticosus (agg spp) – Weed of National Significance

Shrub with scrambling stems generally 2 to 3m high, growing from a woody, stocky rhizome with several lateral roots. The arching stems are green to reddish purple and covered in prickles. The leaves have 3 to 5 leaflets with prickles on the midveins underneath, are dark green and often shed in winter. Native to Europe.

Flowers: White or pink, flowers with 5 petals in spring to summer.
Fruit/Seed: Black, aggregated berry occuring in late summer.
Dispersal: Birds, foxes, re-rooting stems, dumping. Roots sucker after fire.

CAPE IVY
Delairea odorata

Twining succulent climber and scrambler with bright green ivy shaped leaves arranged on alternate sides of the stem. Small, kidney shaped leaf structures occur at the base of the leaves. The stems can root at the nodes when in contact with soil. Forms a carpet on the ground, suppressing growth of other species. Also grows into canopy, eventually killing supporting vegetation. Native to Africa.

Flowers: Small yellow daisy-like clusters from winter to early spring.
Fruit/Seed: Fluffy dandelion-like fruit, 1 to 2mm long.
Dispersal: Wind and dumping.

CAT'S 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 with more roots growing from the shoots. Once a popular cover for fences and trellises in shady areas, it now smothers large trees, particularly along coastal streams. 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.

MORNING GLORY
Ipomoea indica

A vigorous, twining, herbaceous perennial climber with heart-shaped leaves and hairy stems. Has the ability to smother trees and understorey vegetation. Common in moist, disturbed places. Native to Tropical Regions.

Flowers: Distinct funnel-shaped violet-blue flowers 5 to 8cm in diameter occurring anytime in the year, particularly in warmer months.
Fruit/Seed: Does not set seed in Australia.
Dispersal: Dumping and growing from stem fragments, rooting at nodes.
Special Note: Coastal Morning Glory (Ipomoea cairica) is a similar species, except with pink flowers and unique five-fingered leaves.

MADEIRA VINE
Anredera cordifolia – Weed of National Significance

Fleshy, green perennial climber (up to 40m). Leaves are succulent and rounded. Roots are fleshy and form large tubers that break easily when disturbed. Located in fertile soils, disturbed sites and wastelands. Invades rainforest margins, smothering small trees. Also found growing over mangroves. Native to South America.

Flowers: Fragrant cream-white "lamb's tail" sprays in autumn.
Fruit/Seed: Reproduction is mainly vegetative by the growth of aerial tubers along succulent stems. 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.

BALLOON VINE
Cardiospermum grandiflorum

Vigorous climber growing as high as can be supported. Stems and flower stalks densely covered in rusty hairs. Leaves thin and divided into 3 leaflets, each further divided into 3, with irregularly toothed edges. 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. Seedlings germinate most of the year on disturbed land.

AQUATICS

LONGLEAF LUDWIGIA/PRIMROSE WILLOW
Ludwigia longifolia/Ludwigia peruviana

Shrubs growing to 4m. Longleaf Ludwigia has narrow leaves to 35cm long. These reduce in size going up the stem. Stems are red, square, and branch at the ends. Primrose Willow has hairy, dark green leaves on a dark green or green-brown stem.

Flowers: Single yellow flowers with 4-5 petals. Bloom and wilt on the same day.
Fruit/Seed: Erect, soft capsules containing around 3000 sticky, pepper-like seeds (Primrose Willow). Oblong fruits that turn light brown and release numerous tiny seeds (Longleaf Ludwigia).
Dispersal: Seeds spread by water, wind, animals and human activity. Stems can detach during floods, take root and reshoot.

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*).

JASMINE
Jasminum polyanthum

A fast-growing, evergreen twining climber. It climbs rapidly into the tree canopy, blocking light and restricting the growth and regeneration of native species. 5-7 dark green leaves per leaf stem. Although a declared noxious weed in northern Sydney, nurseries are permitted to propagate and stock it. However it does pose a risk as a bushland weed and alternatives should be considered in proximity to bushland areas.

Flowers: Pink buds, with white, start shaped, highly scented flowers.
Fruit/Seed: Rarely produced.
Dispersal: Through new roots forming off stems that run along the ground, by dumping of garden clippings.

HONEYSUCKLE
Lonicera japonica

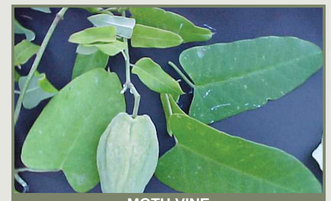
A vigorous, fast growing climber producing a tangle of twining woody stems. Commonly found in moist gullies. Adult leaves are oval shaped and in opposite pairs on the stem.

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.

CORKY PASSIONFLOWER
Passiflora suberosa

A vine, climbing via tendrils on supporting vegetation, to 6m high. Leaves are 3-10cm long, usually 3-lobed with smooth edges on a stalk off main vine. Distinguished by a corky bark outer texture, that develops at the base of older stems.

Flowers: Flowers 1.8-2.5cm wide, yellow-green.
Fruit/Seed: Fruits are globe shaped, 1-1.5cm wide, initially green, ripening to dark purple and black. Containing numerous seeds 34mm in size.
Dispersal: Birds and re-rooting stems.



MOTH VINE
Araujia sericifera

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

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.

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 ***Weed Control Handbook*** available at **www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

We 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 and Shimmin Design. Updated by Sydney Weeds Network's Executive Officer - Amanda Kotlash in 2023.