

# Are these weeds in your backyard?



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## What?

A weed is a plant that is out of place

## Why?

Weeds are a serious issue and cause major problems to the economy, environment, human and animal health. They impact upon biodiversity, eco-tourism, water quality, recreation and landscapes in a harmful way

Highly invasive weeds threaten all parts of Australia including grazing lands, waterways, national parks and urban environments. There are now over 2,500 species of environmental weeds in Australia and as a result they have taken over Australian native vegetation and grasses

Some of these plants escape from gardens around Australia and invade bushlands and farms. Once they have left your backyard, garden plants can become environmental weeds, spreading and choking out native plants and animals. We can replace these weeds with safer alternatives, such as local native plants or species with low weed potential

## How?

### What can you do to prevent the spread of weeds?

In your backyard you can:

- Learn more about the plants that grow in your backyard and how they may spread. Are there any weeds? If so, can you identify them, remove them?
- Dispose of garden waste responsibly. Compost or dispose of garden and green waste in council green waste collections or by carefully transporting it to your council's tip. NEVER dump garden waste over the back fence or in bushland
- Cover your load when taking waste to the tip so seeds and cuttings don't fall off
- Look over your fence. Educate your neighbours and friends about how garden plants can spread and let them know about some positive things that they can also do to help
- Stop lawn clippings and fertilisers running from your garden into waterways and bushland areas. Nutrient enriched soils promote weed growth

#### 1. Balloon Vine *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*

**Growth form:** A climbing vine **Preferred environments:** Riverbanks, creeklines and damp gullies **Dispersal:** Seed can be spread by wind and water **Removal:** Seedlings can be manually removed. Herbicide may be applied by cut and scrape

#### 2. African Lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*

**Growth form:** A vigorously densely tufted perennial grass **Preferred environments:** Disturbed soils, roadsides, railway tracks and riverbanks **Dispersal:** Wind, animals, humans (bushwalking), machinery **Removal:** Hand removal using a mattock with minimal soil disturbance

#### 3. Asparagus Fern *Protasparagus aethiopicus*

**Growth form:** A dense scrambling perennial herb with a thick mat of tuberous roots **Preferred environments:** Reserves, disturbed areas and edges of bushland **Dispersal:** Birds, garden waste dumping and nurseries **Removal:** Physical removal, removing tuberous roots. Stem scrape herbicide application

#### 4. Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus*

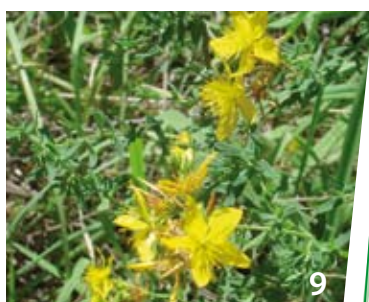
**Growth form:** A scrambling vine with thorny branches forming thickets **Preferred environments:** Disturbed areas, drainage lines **Dispersal:** Birds and foxes **Removal:** Mechanical/manual removal of the crown and roots. Stem scrape herbicide application

#### 5. Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*

**Growth form:** A vigorous scrambling/twining herb **Preferred environments:** Along roadsides, wastelands and disturbed bushland close to urban areas **Dispersal:** Birds, road works. **Removal:** Plants can be dug out, taking care to remove all rhizomes (roots) Weed can re-shoot from any rhizomes left in the ground.

#### 6. Privet – Broad Leaf *Ligustrum lucidum*

**Growth form:** Small tree **Preferred environments:** Moist nutrient rich sites along drains, creeks, etc **Dispersal:** Birds and water **Removal:** Seedlings – hand remove, other wise prune all fruits and flowers. Cut and paint herbicide application may also be effective



## Are these weeds in your backyard?

### Prevention

- Watch for garden plants invading bushland, roadsides and agricultural areas. Report anything of concern to your local Council
- Get involved in a local bush regeneration group
- Contact your local council for a list of common garden escapees and noxious weeds then reduce or remove them from your garden. Your council may also have a list of safe alternative plant species suitable for local gardens

### Weed control using herbicides

If physical removal of weeds is not an option, herbicides can be an effective method of control for major weed infestations. However the type of herbicide and method of application required can vary between weeds. When using herbicides, make sure that any chemicals used are registered for the use on the weed being eradicated. **READ THE LABEL** – it is an offence to use herbicide in a manner contrary to the label. If possible, avoid using herbicides near waterways as they can harm fish and other aquatic organisms. Contact your Council's Noxious Weeds Officer for information on the most suitable methods of weed control as well as alternatives to herbicide use

### Want to know more?

For further information contact your local council:

Camden	4654 7777
Campbelltown	4645 4000
Liverpool	1300 36 2170
Wollondilly	4677 1100
Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living	4647 9828

#### 7. Privet – Narrow Leaf *Ligustrum sinense*

**Growth form:** Large shrub **Preferred environments:** Moist nutrient rich sites along drains, creeks, etc **Dispersal:** Birds and water **Removal:** Seedlings – hand remove, other wise prune all fruits and flowers. Cut and paint herbicide application may also be effective.

#### 8. Mother-of-Millions *Bryophyllum delagoense*

**Growth form:** A succulent plant that can grow up to 1m in height **Preferred environments:** Dry, rocky outcrops, clay/fertile soils and areas of discarded garden waste or rubbish dumping **Dispersal:** New plants grow from leaf edges dropped by mature Mother-of-Millions plants. Dumped garden waste. **Removal:** Hand pulled from the ground easily, but take care to prevent the fall of any leaves

#### 9. St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum*

**Growth form:** An erect perennial herb or small shrub **Preferred environments:** Grazing land, sparse bushland, roadsides and disturbed areas **Dispersal:** Animals (domestic and native), wind, water, machinery. The seeds of St John's Wort may remain viable in the soil for several decades **Removal:** Pulling or chipping can remove isolated plants, but all roots must be removed or the plant will regenerate

#### 10. Trad (Wandering Dew) *Tradescantia fluminensis*

**Growth form:** A vigorously spreading creeping succulent, herb **Preferred environments:** Ground layer in gullies and temporary watercourses, high nutrient habitats and moist conditions **Dispersal:** Vegetatively. Any piece of the plant containing a node can regrow. Also spread from waterways, in mud from vehicles and dumping of garden waste **Removal:** Hand removal, raking. All fragments need to be removed. Repeat weeding when new shoots form

#### 11. Blue Morning Glory/Coastal Morning Glory *Ipomoea indica* / *Ipomoea cairica*

**Growth form:** A vigorous scrambling climber **Preferred environments:** Waste areas, fences, reserves and disturbed areas **Dispersal:** Gravity and wind **Removal:** Small infestations can be hand removed pulling up runners. All horizontal stems, must be removed, as regrowth will occur. Herbicide may be applied by cut or scrape

#### 12. Madeira Vine *Anredera cordifolia*

**Growth form:** A vigorous perennial climber **Preferred environments:** Damp areas, fertile soils and creek lines **Dispersal:** Aerial tubers and dumping of garden waste **Removal:** Small seedlings and tubers can be manually removed, bagged and composted. Herbicide may be applied by a stem-scrape method