



# Environmental Weeds

## The hidden garden menace

### What is an environmental weed?

Garden plants that spread onto roadsides or into agricultural or natural areas are regarded as environmental weeds. Gardeners are often not aware that the colourful garden plant they have purchased from their local nursery could be a threat to bushland, roadsides or nearby farms.

### Why are environmental weeds a problem?

Garden plants are Australia's largest source of agricultural and environmental weeds. It is estimated that weeds cost the Australian agricultural community up to \$4 billion annually.

With around 3000 species of non-local garden escapee plants invading our natural bush, roadsides, gardens and agricultural land across Australia, it is important that

what you plant in your garden does not contribute to this problem

### What is the difference between environmental weeds and declared weeds?

Declared weeds are those listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. These weeds are recognised as a very serious threat to agriculture and the environment and the legislation requires that landholders undertake control of these species. They are often also referred to as 'noxious' weeds.

Environmental weeds are not listed under the Act but still represent a serious threat to agriculture and the environment and should be controlled. Many declared weeds would have started out as environmental weeds.

## Can I plant my property with trees, shrubs or flowers?

If you want to revegetate or plant your property with garden type plants, Council encourages you to use species local to the area and species that are water wise. Avoid species that are known environmental weeds (e.g. Gazania).

A reputable nursery should be able to advise which species are at risk of becoming environmental weeds.

## I don't know what weeds I have on my property?

Councils Natural Resources Officers are happy to conduct property visits, assist with identifying weeds and provide advice on weed control.

## What are the common environmental weeds in Golden Plains?

Some common environmental weeds of Golden Plains are listed below.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Agapanthus	( <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> ssp. <i>orientalis</i> )
Black Nightshade	( <i>Solanum nigrum</i> )
Blue Periwinkle	( <i>Vinca major</i> )
Cape Honey Flower	( <i>Melianthus major</i> )
Cape Leeuwin Wattle	( <i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i> ssp. <i>lothantha</i> )
Cape Weed	( <i>Arctotheca calendula</i> )
Coastal Tea Tree	( <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> )
Cootamundra Wattle	( <i>Acacia baileyana</i> )
Early Black Wattle	( <i>Acacia decurrens</i> )
English Ivy	( <i>Hedera helix</i> )
Feathertop Grass	( <i>Pennisetum villosum</i> )
Gazania	( <i>Gazania linearis</i> )
Italian Buckthorn	( <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i> )
Large-leaf Cotoneaster	( <i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i> )
Mirror Bush	( <i>Coprosma repens</i> )
Myrtle-leaf Milkwort	( <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> )
Pampas Grass	( <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> )
Peppercorn Tree	( <i>Schinus areira</i> )
Purple Wood Sorrel	( <i>Oxalis purpurea</i> )
Radiata Pine	( <i>Pinus radiata</i> )
Sallow Wattle	( <i>Acacia longifolia</i> )
Sea-side Daisy	( <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> )
Spanish Heath	( <i>Erica lusitanica</i> )
Sweet Pittosporum	( <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> )
Toowoomba Canary Grass	( <i>Phalaris aquatica</i> )
Western Australian Bluebell Creeper	( <i>Sollya heterophylla</i> )

## Where can I get more information?

There's a wealth of online resources to assist you with your selection of garden plants or identification of environmental weeds.

Weed information

- See our Weed Identification brochure on Councils website
  - Speak with one of Councils Natural Resources Officers
  - National Weeds website  
<http://www.weeds.gov.au/>
  - Weed Society of Victoria
- Garden plant selection
- See our Indigenous Planting Guides on Councils website.