

Identify and help control

Environmental WEEDS in the Yarra Ranges



Common Garden and Agricultural Plants that are **Environmental Weeds** in the Yarra Ranges



GRASSES AND HERBS

Angled Onion *Allium triquetrum*



Reproduces by seed and by bulbs. Drooping white bell shaped flowers. Onion smell when cut.



Arum Lily *Zantedeschia aethiopica*



Spreads by seed and underground stem. Invades damp areas. Arrowhead shaped leaves, flowers large white sheath with yellow inside.



Bulbil Watsonia *Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*



Spread by underground swollen stem and by dropping bulbils found on flower spike. Stiff upright leaves.



Agapanthus *Agapanthus praecox* subsp. *orientalis*



Hardy perennial lily grows in thick clumps. Spread by seed and through cut root fragments.



Pampas Grass *Cortaderia selloana*



Large tussock grass (2-6m tall), large white flower plumes can produce up to 100,000 seeds each. Seeds spread by wind.



Montbretia *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*



Vigorous perennial bulbous plant, dies down in autumn. Spreads vigorously from underground stem. Invades roadsides and waterways.



Soursob *Oxalis pes-caprae*



Spreads by small bulbs that form on rhizomes and are left behind if plant is pulled out. Bright yellow flowers. Forms dense mats.



Quaking Grass *Briza maxima*



Erect annual grass with distinctive drooping seed heads. Infestations outcompete native grasses.



Cedar Wattle *Acacia elata*



Up to 15m tall, bipinnate leaf structure. Numerous creamy white flower heads in large clusters, seed pods 10-15cm.



Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*



Deciduous tree to 10m tall with thorny stems. Small fragrant white/pink flowers turn to clusters of red berries, distinctive leaves with toothed margins.



Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*



Up to 15m tall. Fragrant creamy-white flowers turn to globular orange fruit capsules, seed spread by birds and mammals.



Willows *Salix* spp.



Large deciduous, many stemmed tree. Invades river banks and wetlands forming dense thickets. Only *S. cinerea* sets seeds. Reproduces by stem fragment.



Cape Wattle *Paraserianthes lophantha*



Small tree to 8m with ridged branches. Bipinnate leathery leaves, flowers greenish-yellow with bottle-brush like spikes that turn to seed pods. Forms dense stands.



TREES

Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*



Hardy perennial multi-stemmed woody shrub common as a hedge. Large, oblong leaves. Upright spikes of small ivory flowers turning to purplish black berries. Seeds spread by birds.



Holly *Ilex aquifolium*



Large evergreen shrub, spiky green leaves with bunches of bright red berries. Seeds spread by birds, also suckers to form dense thickets.



Sycamore Maple *Acer pseudoplatanus*



Fast growing deciduous tree to 30m. Large 5 point leaves with v-shaped fruits that spin like a propeller. Regrow when cut.



Desert Ash *Fraxinus angustifolia*



Deciduous tree to 20m. Spreads by seed in wind and water and root suckering which can form dense stands.



Wild Tobacco Tree *Solanum mauritianum*



Dense woolly shrub to 4m covered in hairs. Leaves grey-green with soft hairs, clusters of violet coloured flowers turn to orange berries. Invades waterways.



Cootamundra Wattle *Acacia baileyana*



Small tree 4-8m tall. Bipinnate blue-green to silver-grey leaves, sprays of golden yellow flower balls, straight seed pods.



Radiata Pine *Pinus radiata*



Evergreen tree to 40m. Deeply ridged bark, needle shaped leaves, cones produce winged seeds. Seed spread by wind and birds.



Willow-Leaf Hakea *Hakea salicifolia*



Small tree to 6m tall with peeling brown bark. Narrow, oblong leaves, clusters of fragrant white flowers. Germinates profusely after fire.



Karamu *Coprosma robusta*



Small tree to 8m tall. Leaves glossy green pointed oval shape. Mature fruit red and egg-shaped. Can invade undisturbed sites.



Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo*



Up to 10m tall with flaky bark. White/pinkish flowers turn to a rough berry fruit that matures to orange-red. Leaves oblong with pointed tips.



Over 200 environmental weeds are invading our local bushland.
With many spreading from private gardens,
we can all play our part in controlling them.

Use this chart to help identify and manage weeds
in your neighbourhood.

Environmental Weeds

Environmental weeds are an increasing problem in our region and are significantly impacting on our environment. They are the second greatest threat to our local biodiversity after vegetation clearing. Environmental weeds are plants that are growing outside of their normal area and therefore lack their natural environmental controls. This allows them to quickly establish themselves and take over areas of native vegetation such as bushland and forests, along waterways or native grasslands.

Many environmental weeds are able to establish themselves great distances from the parent plant, whether through bird dispersal of berries, windblown seed, or improper disposal. Without knowing it you may be infecting your neighbourhood with weedy plants which seem under control in your garden. Once established, environmental weeds can be very difficult and costly to remove so it is important to stop weeds spreading from your garden and to avoid planting new ones.

Some environmental weeds are still sold through major retailers, markets and car boot sales. Please take this brochure with you as a quick reference to help you decide which plants to avoid introducing into your garden...and potentially your neighbourhood!

This brochure contains information on the most common and problematic weeds in the Yarra Ranges – but there are many more. Please contact us if you have trouble identifying a weed or if you need more detailed control information.

Weed Control Responsibilities

Generally it is the responsibility of the land owner or land occupier to control weeds growing on their property and ensure they are not escaping into neighbouring properties.

Community Action

We are very lucky to have many dedicated residents and community groups to assist with weed control on public land in our region. The Yarra Ranges Council supports these efforts by providing training, information, equipment, and operational support. We encourage residents to control weeds on their own properties and join with neighbourhoods and established community groups to help stop environmental weeds from degrading the biodiversity values of their local area.

Additional Links:

www.dse.vic.gov.au www.dpi.vic.gov.au
www.weeds.gov.au www.weeds.org.au

Calendar key

Flowering Seeding Treatment



SHRUBS

Weed Treatment Techniques

-  Remove by hand
-  Cut stem and paint with herbicide*
-  Drill and fill with herbicide*
-  Spray with herbicide*
-  Dig out

* Herbicide Use

Always follow the manufacture's guidelines when using chemicals. Many herbicide labels are limited in information. Please refer to the manufacturer's product information available through specialist suppliers or their website to determine the best product for your needs.

Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eyewear at all times when applying herbicides. When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or refer to the manufacturer's website for specific safety guidelines and information.

Be aware some herbicides will kill other plants and not just the target species. If used near waterways herbicides can be very poisonous to aquatic life. Always use chemicals sparingly and be sure that you are using the right chemical and application technique. Ensure the weather conditions are suitable (e.g. minimal wind and no rain expected) for the safest and most effective application. It is also important to ensure you apply herbicides at the correct time during the plant's growth cycle so you get the best results with minimal environmental damage.

Treatment Timing

Weed control can be a long term effort so take the time to plan your removal efforts to ensure your approach is the most effective and to increase your chances of success. Before you start removing weeds use this guide and other references to determine the control techniques and the best timing. Consider what follow up treatments will be required to ensure effective long-term control.

WONS **Weeds of National Significance** (WONS) have been identified as the weeds that have the most significant impacts across Australia both environmentally and economically and are a priority for control.

Native Species as weeds

Not all weeds are exotic plants. Some Australian native species can have weed characteristics when growing outside of their normal range. Look out for the native plants listed in this brochure that are known to cause harm to our local environment.

Declared Noxious Weeds

These plant have been declared noxious under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act). These plants have the potential to cause serious environmental and/or economic harm. All land owners and land occupiers are responsible for managing noxious weeds on their land. Please let Council know if you find a noxious weed outbreak on public land, or if you need further information or advice on tackling noxious weeds on your property.

For the full list of Noxious Weeds visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

More Information

Please contact the Yarra Ranges Council's Environment Department for more information on weed removal techniques, support and training available and details of active community groups in your area.

Yarra Ranges Council

Anderson St, Lilydale 3140
Ph: 1300 368 333
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

For a full list of plants that are indigenous to your property visit Yarra Ranges Council's online mapping program at www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/maps

For more information on indigenous plants that occur in the Yarra Ranges visit the Council's Plant Directory at www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants

Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* spp. aggregate



Woody shrub with erect prickly cane stems that form dense thickets. Fruit spread by birds and foxes. Canes and root fragments form new plants.

Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp.



Erect woody shrub 2-4m tall and wide. Small white flowers turn to large clusters of red berries. Spread by birds. Popular as a hedge.

Mirrorbush *Coprosma repens*



Up to 8m tall. Broad oval, glossy leaves, small greenish flowers turn to clusters of globular orange fruit. Popular as a hedge. Seed spread by birds.

Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*



Erect perennial herb to 1.2m. Initial rosette of leaves then produces erect stems. Numerous yellow daisy shaped flower heads. Poisonous.

Spanish Heath *Erica lusitana*



Erect slender shrub to 2m with dense stems. Profuse white/pink bell-shaped flowers on leafy branches. Aggressively invades roadsides. Spread by seed and root suckering. Not to be confused with native Epacris.

Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*



Erect shrub to 3m tall. Coarsely toothed oval leaves, yellow flowers, egg-shaped smooth brown fruit.

English Broom *Cytisus scoparius*



Erect shrub to 3m with dense stems. Large yellow pea flower turning to seed pod. Spreads rapidly by seed, forms dense thickets.

Montpellier Broom *Genista monspessulana*



Erect shrub to 3m with dense stems. Flat, hairy leaves with three leaflets. Rounded clusters of yellow pea flowers.

Red Cestrum *Cestrum elegans*



Up to 3m tall. Large pointed oval leaves with dense clusters or red tubular flowers. Red globular berries. Poisonous.

Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*



Erect annual/biennial herb matures from ground rosette to 2m. Showy red/purple flower heads on top of spine tipped stem. Widespread in pastures.

Privet *Ligustrum vulgare*



Semi-evergreen shrub to 5m tall. Small oblong leaves, shiny black berries. Seeds spread by birds.

Gorse *Ulex europaeus*



Fast-growing, dense, prickly shrub to 5m tall. Clusters of yellow pea flowers turning to oval-shaped, hairy pods. Forms dense thickets.

Myrtle Leaf Milkwort *Polygala myrtifolia*



Erect shrub to 3m. Oval leaves, clusters of purple and white flowers.

Sallow Wattle *Acacia longifolia*



Spreading tree 1.5 – 10m tall. Long, flat leaves. Long cylindrical groups of bright yellow flower heads.

Tutsan *Hypericum androsaemum*



Soft-wooded shrub to 80cm tall, broad, heart-shaped leaves. Yellow five petal flowers with numerous stamens. Capsule fruit red turning to black.

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS

Asparagus Fern *Asparagus scandens*



Climbing vine with underground rhizomes. Flat leaves, twisting stems, orange-red berries. Seeds spread by birds.

Blue Periwinkle *Vinca major*



Dense groundcover, invades damp, shady areas. Lilac-blue 5 petal flowers. Broad oval shaped shiny dark green leaves. Stem fragments root and grow new plants.

Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides*



Aggressive climber forms large mats on ground and climbs up trees. Thin stems, small bright green leaves, small white flowers, round green to red berry.

Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*



Fast growing climber that blankets other vegetation. Tubular yellow-white flowers turn to black berries. Spread by birds and by stems rooting.

Cape Ivy *Delairea odorata*



Vigorous vine that carpets the ground and grows up vegetation. Spreads by seed and stem fragments that root and grow new plants.

Banana Passionfruit *Passiflora tarminiana*



Climbing vine with tendrils. Complex pink and white flowers turning into long yellow fruit.

Bluebell Creeper *Billiardaria heterophylla*



Vigorous twining shrub to 2m. Narrow, oblong leaves. Clusters of drooping bright blue flowers. Purple cylindrical fruit resembles a pod.

English Ivy *Hedera helix*



Dense vine/creeper that smothers other vegetation. Spread by seeds (red berries) and stem segments root to form new plants.

Wandering Trad *Tradescantia fluminensis*



Rapidly creeping soft herbaceous plant that forms dense carpets in damp, shady areas. Spreads vegetatively with root fragments. Invasive to waterways.

Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*



Perennial herb groundcover with yellow five-petal flowers. Spread by surface runners which root at intervals.