



Identify and help control

# Environmental WEEDS

in the Yarra Ranges



## Environmental Weeds

Environmental weeds are an increasing problem in our region and are significantly impacting on our environment. They are the 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](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au)  
[www.weeds.gov.au](http://www.weeds.gov.au) [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

### Calendar key

Flowering Seeding Treatment

## GRASSES AND HERBS

**Angled Onion** *Allium triquetrum*



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

**Bulbil Watsonia** *Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*



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

**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.

**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.

**Arum Lily** *Zantedeschia aethiopica*



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

**Agapanthus** *Agapanthus praecox* subsp. *orientalis*



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

**Montbretia** *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora*



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

**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.

