Identify and help control

Environmental





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. lease 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



Common Garden and Agricultural Plants that are

GRASSES AND HERBS

Analed Onion Allium triquetrum



Reproduces by seed and by bulbs. Drooping white bell shaped

flowers. Onion smell when cut.

Bulbil Watsonia Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera



J F M A M J J A S O N D Spread by underground swollen stem and by dropping bulbils

found on flower spike. Stiff upright leaves.

Pampas Grass Cortaderia selloana



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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



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



Hardy perennial lily grows in thick clumps. Spread by seed and

through cut root fragments.



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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.

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.







Willows Salix spp.









Cedar Wattle Acacia elata



J F M A M J J A S O N

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.



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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



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



JFMAMJJJASOND

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

Willow-Leaf Hakea Hakea salicifoli



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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.





SHRUBS

Weed Treatment Techniques



* 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 longterm control.



Weeds of National Significance (WONS)

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 us 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

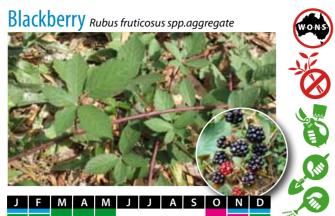
Please contact the Yarra Ranges Council's Environment Department for more information on weed removal techniques, support and training available and details of active community groups in your area.

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



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



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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.

Raqwort 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 Iusitanica



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.





English Broom Cytisus scoparius



J F M A M J J A S O N

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



J F M A M J J A S O N C

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



J F M A M J J A S O N D

red tubular flowers. Red globular berries. Poisonous.

Spear Thistle Cirsium vulgare



J F M A M J J A S O N

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



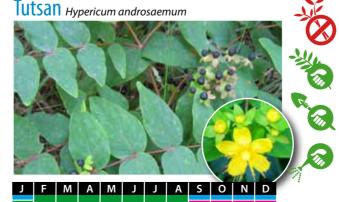
Gorse Ulex europaeus





flowers.





turning to black.

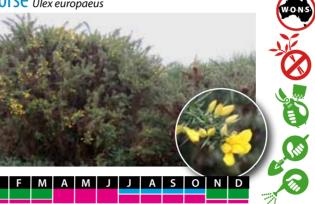




Up to 3m tall. Large pointed oval leaves with dense clusters or

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





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



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





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

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

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

CLIMBERS AND CREEPERS



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

Bluebell Creeper Billiarderia heterophylla



J F M A M J J A S O N D

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

Enalish IVV Hedera helix



A M J J A S O N D

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



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



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