



City of
Joondalup

Being WEEDwise

Environmental Weeds
in the City of Joondalup

What is a Weed?

Weeds may be either introduced plants, or native plants growing outside their natural range.

A weed is a plant which has, or has the potential to have, a detrimental effect on economic, social or conservation values. (National Weeds Strategy, 1997)

Weeds invade or take over ecosystems and are not in balance with other flora and fauna in that ecosystem.

Many ornamental plants growing in backyard gardens have the potential to become environmental weeds in local bushland.

Characteristics of a Weed

- The ability to spread by vegetative means (e.g. bulbs, roots or stem fragments);
- Produce seeds in fruit that can be eaten or dispersed by birds (e.g. olives);
- Produce large amounts of seeds which can be dispersed by wind;
- The ability to survive and in some cases thrive in varied and often harsh conditions;
- A history of being a weed in similar climates.

Weed Dispersal

Weeds are often spread by a number of methods:

- Dispersal of seeds by wind, birds, animals or human or vehicle movement;
- Through underground root systems;
- By garden rubbish dumping.

Impacts on Bushland

Weeds can:

- displace native plant species;
- harbour pests and diseases;
- create fuel loads for fires;
- impact negatively on fauna and flora and their habitats;
- compete with native species for space, water and nutrients.

Planting unsuitable native or exotic species in your garden increases the risk of these plants 'escaping' to bushland areas and negatively impacting upon biodiversity values.

Garden Rubbish Dumping

Dumping of garden waste is one of the main ways that weeds escape from gardens and inhabit bushland and waterways. Always dispose of green waste through green waste collections or at the City's Green Waste Recycling Facility in Wangara.

Disposal of green waste in your weekly green bin collection is discouraged. For more information on green waste collections contact the City on 9400 4940.

Tips for Managing the Spread of Weeds

- Identify plants in your garden that have the potential to become bushland weeds. Manage weeds to prevent escaping (e.g. cut off flowers to stop seeds spreading) or remove them completely;
- Ensure you dispose of all garden waste correctly (City green waste collections, mulching etc);
- Maintain your property so weeds do not re-establish (apply dense mulch, replant weeded areas with suitable plants);
- For future planting, consider using local, native species where possible;
- Consider joining a Friends Group to participate in bushland restoration and enhance your knowledge of native plant species.

The following weed species have invaded many of the City's natural areas, through escaping backyard gardens or through dumped garden waste. Weed species impact upon local biodiversity. Weed identification can assist in prevention and ongoing management of weed species.

This Guide provides an overview of common and threatening weed species regularly planted in the City of Joondalup.

Key for Weed Species

Declared – Legislation under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* that requires landholders to control or eradicate the weed when it grows on their land.

Areas Found

C – Coastal B – Bushland W – Wetland

Purchasing and Growing Native Plants

For a list of alternative plants to grow in your garden see the City of Joondalup publications:

- 'Growing Locals' - In Quindalup, Cottesloe, and Karrakatta Soils.

These publications list plants that suit your soil and climatic conditions and don't pose any adverse effects to local bushland.

Native plants can be purchased from many specialist nurseries. For a list of native nurseries in your area visit the Australian Native Plants Society website > Search 'Nurseries'>Western Australia or enquire at your local nursery.

Additional Resources

Books

- Hussey, B, Keighery, G and Dodd, J (2007) *Western Weeds*.
- Brown, K and Sandiford, L (2002) *Bushland Weeds: A Practical Guide To Their Management*.

Online

- **Department of Agriculture and Food WA**
www.agric.wa.gov.au > 'Weeds'
- **Department of Environment and Conservation**
www.dec.wa.gov.au > 'Invasive Plants'
- **Florabase**
www.florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/weeds

For more information on weeds in your local area visit the City of Joondalup website.



K. Bettink

Geraldton Carnation Weed

Euphorbia terracina **C, B**

Erect perennial, up to 1.2m high. Leaves are long and linear, 1-4cm long and minutely toothed. Displays green and yellow flowers from spring to summer. Found in coastal areas and wetlands. Produces a toxic milky sap.



Annual Veldt Grass

Ehrharta longiflora **C, B, W**

Small, densely tufted annual grass up to 60cm high. Displays purple and green flowers from winter to spring. Widespread weed of coastal areas and bushland.



Perennial Veldt Grass

Ehrharta calycina **C, B**

Densely tufted perennial grass up to 1m high. Displays green, purple and red flowers from autumn to spring. Widespread weed of roadsides, bushland and vacant land and can be a significant fire hazard.



Rose Pelargonium

Pelargonium capitatum **C, B, W**

Shrubby perennial up to 1m high. Displays a compact head of pink flowers from summer to autumn and winter to spring. Common weed of coastal areas.



Wild Pink Gladiolus

Gladiolus caryophyllaceus **B**

Perennial bulb up to 1m high, with twisted leaf blades. Displays pink flowers from winter to spring. Increasingly common in urban bushland areas.



Sand Plain Lupin

Lupinus cosentinii **B**

Multi-branched annual up to 1.4m high. Has prickly, thick upright stems and rosettes of bright green finger-like leaves. Displays blue flowers on a central spike with many pea-shaped flowers. Large seed pod with 6 or so pea-like seeds. Flowers from winter to spring. Commonly found in bushland areas.



One Leaf Cape Tulip (Declared)

Moraea flaccida **C, B**

Single leaf perennial bulb, up to 75cm high. Displays yellow-orange (salmon) flowers in spring.

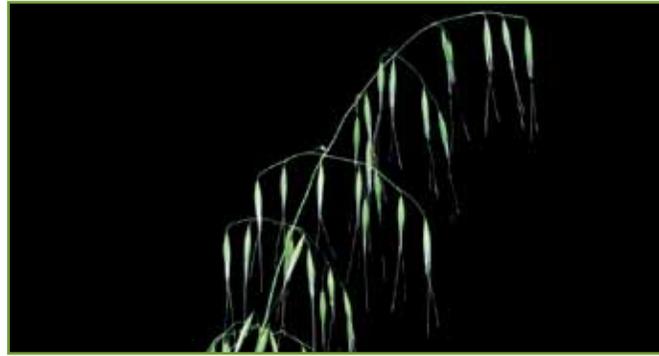
Very invasive in bush and coastal reserves with sand over limestone (e.g. Iluka). Prior to flowering infestations can be recognised at a distance from brown tinge resulting from dying tips of their leaves. Toxic to animals.



Prickly Lettuce

Lactuca serriola **C, B**

Erect annual or biennial (blooms in second year), up to 2m high. Displays yellow flowers from spring to summer. Found along roadsides and disturbed sites.



Wild Oat

Avena fatua **C, B**

Erect annual grass up to 90cm high. Displays green flowers from winter to summer.

Bearded Oat (pictured)

Avena barbata **C, B**

Erect annual grass up to 1m high. Displays green flowers from winter to spring.



Black Flag

Ferraria crispa **C, B**

Perennial bulb to 60cm high. Displays brown to yellow mottled flowers from winter to spring. Spread by seeds and bulbs. A garden escapee found in coastal areas and bushland. Often found growing in dense clumps and easily distinguishable by its succulent foliage.



Caltrop

Tribulus terrestris **C, B**

Flat growing annual with greyish leaves, yellow flowers less than 1cm across, and very spiny roughly spherical seed pods. Flowers in summer. Found along roadsides and vacant land. Sharp thorns are a hazard to bike tyres and pets. Can be confused with doublegee as it has similar spiny seed pods.



Dune Onion Weed

Trachyandra divaricata **C, B**

Perennial to 35cm high with an underground root system. Displays white flowers in spring. Flowers often have a pair of yellow spots near base. Flat leaves and widely branched flowering stalk. Flower stalk produces seeds that ripen, dry out, break off and blow in the wind, scattering seeds. Commonly found in coastal and bushland areas.



Sea Spinach
Tetragonia decumbens **C**

Soft, semi-succulent shrub up to 30cm high and 2m wide. Has dry, brown winged seed pods. Displays yellow flowers from autumn to spring. Found in sand dunes.



Wild Turnip
Brassica tournefortii **C, B**

Annual up to 60cm high. Displays pale yellow or cream to white flowers from winter to spring. Aggressive weed of disturbed ground, bushland and coastal areas.



Non-local Bulrush
Typha orientalis **W**

Tall, stiffly upright aquatic perennial up to 4.5m high. Displays brown flowers from spring to summer. Commonly found in wetland areas.



Victorian (Coastal) Tea Tree
Leptospermum laevigatum **C, B**

Shrub or tree, up to 6m high. Displays white flowers in autumn to spring. Small, oblong, grey-green leaves.

Introduced as a garden plant (often grown as a hedge), and has become a major bushland weed.

Invades coastal and bushland areas.



Tall Fleabane
Conyza sumatrensis **C, B, W**

Soft, hairy plant with very leafy stems that branch only at the flowers. Grows to 2m forming a pyramid of small greenish-white flowers in summer.

Found on roadsides, wetlands and disturbed or vacant land.



Fumitory Family
Fumaria capreolata (whiteflower fumitory) **C, B, W**

Climbing or scrambling annual up to 3m high. Displays flowers that range from white to reddish/brown from winter to spring with bright green leaves.

Common on road verges and vacant land.



Kikuyu, Buffalo and Couch C, B, W

Kikuyu *Pennisetum clandestinum* – Perennial grass up to 15cm high. Displays green flowers from spring to autumn. Prefers moist habitats.

Buffalo *Stenotaphrum secundatum* – Flat growing perennial grass up to 50cm high. Displays green or purple flowers from spring to autumn.

Couch *Cynodon dactylon* – Flat growing perennial grass up to 30cm high. Displays green or purple flowers from winter to summer.

All cultivated as lawn, but have become a widespread weed in natural areas.



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