LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Grow Me Instead

A guide to replacing invasive plants in your home garden with beautiful indigenous plants.

Acknowledgement of Country

Latrobe City Council acknowledges that it operates on the traditional land of the Brayakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pay respects to their Elders past and present.

Foreword

I come from a long line of gardeners and nature lovers so it was inevitable that I was introduced to the idea of 'environmental weeds' in childhood.

My mum's love of gardening, bird watching and wildflower walks led me to study horticulture and from there a career managing environmental weeds.

The garden I have been living amongst for almost 20 years started from scratch. Despite all my access to information about invasive garden plants and my best intentions, I have planted things that I wish I had not.

I'm still learning from my own garden, observing, removing things that spread and safely disposing of them, trying something else.

I've been working in the weed area since the 1980s and I'm still learning here, too. Some of the plants recommended as safer alternatives in this guide may also spread in time. We keep learning and improving our information.

As gardeners we can help to make a difference in our local environment by following much of the advice in this guide. If you see a plant taking over your garden, chances are it will do the same in local natural areas. Remove it responsibly and replace it with a safer alternative.

When you catch up with family and friends, or scroll through your social media feed, avoid sharing the garden plants that spread easily. Share instead your information on invasive garden plants to spread the word further. Happy gardening!

Kate Blood
Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion Project
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Cover photo: L Bester. Prickly Tea-Tree (*Leptospermum continentale)*

Contacts

Latrobe City Council
1300 367 700
www.latrobe.vic.gov.au

Sustainable Gardening Australia
(03) 8850 3050
www.sgaonline.org.au

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
1800 920 528

For more information about weeds, including free invasive species publications and resources:
www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/invasive-species/publications

Disclaimer

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Illustration by Linda Bester: Eastern Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris)* and Chef's Hat/Cap Correa (*Correa baeuerlenii)*. Bird reference photo: Marjan Kaashoek.

A word from Sustainable Gardening Australia

Sustainable Gardening is all about gardening in a way that minimises the negative impact that our gardening practices have on the natural environment while maximising the positive impacts we can have.

Gardening can provide a positive benefit to the health of our environment.

If we plant local plants, we provide food and shelter for birds and butterflies.

By conserving water in the garden, we help maintain water levels in our reservoirs.

If we reduce the use of chemicals in the garden, we help to keep our stormwater runoff into creeks and streams chemical-free.

By composting our household and garden organic waste, we can reduce the amount of waste going into landfill and therefore reduce the amount of greenhouse gas produced.

If we purchase renewable resources for the garden instead of non-renewable resources, we can help to protect our old-growth forests and river ecosystems.

It is easy to create beautiful gardens that suit our local climate and soil and have a low impact on our natural environment.

Mary Trigger
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Gardening Australia

Illustration by Linda Bester: Blue-banded Bees, (*Amegilla cingulata)* on Common Billy-buttons (*Craspedia variabilis)*. Reference photo: Dr Debbie Reynolds.

Table of contents

Weeds are everyone's responsibility

Environmental Weed: a plant that is spreading outside of its natural range, which is a threat to the environment, in particular to the biodiversity.

Noxious Weed: a plant that has been formally declared as noxious under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, due to its potential to negatively affect primary production, Crown land, the environment and/or community health. All landowners are legally required to manage declared noxious weeds on their land.

Weeds are a serious threat to primary production, animal welfare, and biodiversity. They displace locally native plants and the animals that rely on them, and contribute to land and water degradation. Farm productivity is also affected; particularly when weeds, that can't be consumed by stock, take up space and require time and money to eradicate.

Weeds cost the Victorian agricultural industry more than $360 million each year![1] In addition, their management adds costs to public land managers (such as councils), businesses and homeowners, not to mention the environment.

Many of our worst weeds have spread from home gardens into sensitive areas such as bushland reserves. Animals such as birds and foxes often eat the fruits of weeds, like Cotoneaster and Privet, and distribute the seeds in their droppings over many kilometres. Seeds can also blow long distances in the wind, and wash down drains into waterways, where they grow and spread further.

Garden plants make up 30% of all noxious weeds. In Victoria alone, we have about 600 garden escapees that are now categorised as weeds![2]

1 Source: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
2 Source: Low, T. (2001) Feral Future. Penguin Books

Garden escapees are very good at out-competing locally native plants as they establish quickly from seed distributed by animals, wind, water, machinery, and dumped garden waste. The weeds then use up the space, nutrients, light and water that the locally native plants require to survive.

Native plants can also become weeds if they are planted outside of their natural range. Australian natives such as Cootamundra Wattle have spread across Australia after being sold in nurseries, and then further spread has occurred from gardens via birds, insects, machinery and garden waste.

Once established, garden escapees are very difficult and expensive to control or eradicate.

Purpose of this booklet

We hope to educate gardeners and nurseries about weeds in an effort to reduce the occurrence of garden escapees, and consequently, their impact on our environment. There are many weeds available for sale in Victoria, some of them illegally. All it takes is a little forethought and care when planning your garden to make sure that your beautiful plants are not going to be Australia's next serious weeds.

Photo: L Bester. A serious Agapanthus infestation in a Victorian bushland reserve.

How you can make a difference?

There are simple things that you can do as a home or commercial gardener to prevent plants spreading from your garden into bushland, water bodies, waterways, and other areas that will cause ongoing infestations.

- Remove invasive plants from your garden and replace them with non-invasive plants.
- Try to prioritise the use of locally native plants wherever possible as they are adapted to the environmental conditions of your area. Refer to the list of nurseries within this booklet.
- For plants like Agapanthus, if you intend to keep them, remove their seed heads wherever possible and bag them for disposal.
- Don't dump your garden waste where it doesn't belong, as it will spread and take over sensitive areas.
- Don't give away or sell the weeds that you have removed.
- Dispose of your weeds via green-waste bins or local facilities, ideally after solarisation. This involves placing a black plastic tarp over them in the hot sun for a month, with no soil contact, in order to kill the plant.
- In garden areas that are plant-free, lay down a thick layer of both newspaper and weed-free mulch, to help prevent new weeds establishing. Bare soil attracts weeds.
- Avoid bringing in soil, plant material (e.g. hay), and unclean equipment from elsewhere to your property.

Why use indigenous plants?

Indigenous plants are native species that occur naturally in a given area due to the environmental conditions that are present e.g. climate, soil, elevation, pollinators and so on.

The larger the natural range of a species (i.e. where it occurs), the more it tolerates a wide range of conditions.

Using plants that are indigenous to your area conserves water and reduces maintenance, with fewer chemical inputs required as they attract native pollinators which often control pests naturally. Indigenous plants also promote biodiversity, helping to provide food and shelter for the native fauna that have evolved alongside them.

Incorporating indigenous plants preserves regional identity and cultural heritage while fostering a deeper connection to the land. They offer practical, eco-friendly, and beautiful landscaping options for sustainable outdoor spaces.

Where to start

Using this guide, create a list of plants for your garden that you think will be suitable based on functional and aesthetic requirements, and the environmental conditions present on site. Get in touch with your closest indigenous plant nurseries to see what they can supply. They will be able to advise you of additional options, based on what they have.

Note - all plant sizes in the descriptions that follow are indicative and are formatted as height x width.

Weed control methods

Manual removal — pull/dig

This method involves removing weeds by hand and can include the use of tools such as shovels and mattocks. It's suitable for small clusters of weeds, particularly where fertile material (e.g. bulbs) is unlikely to be left behind. This can be a good method for sensitive areas. Seed heads, bulbs, rhizomes, and other fertile material should be bagged for responsible disposal.

Slash and mow

Do not use this method if the weeds are in seed and/or can spread vegetatively like Ivy, as they will just spread further.

Avoid:

- slashing/mowing in areas where the indigenous plants are in flower, as they will miss an entire seed-setting cycle;
- using heavy equipment in sensitive areas that will compact the soil; and
- introducing new weeds by using unclean equipment.

The best time to slash/mow weeds is when they are in flower. Clean equipment after use.

Suppression

This method involves placing a few layers of newspaper or thin cardboard on the ground, on top of low-growing weeds before weighing it down further with mulch. This will kill the weeds beneath it and suppress further weed growth for quite some time, by blocking the light they need for growth and survival.

Solarisation

During summer, it's possible to kill areas of shallow-rooted weeds (e.g. Wandering Trad) using the sun's heat. Cover weeds with black plastic for approximately four weeks. This process blocks sunlight and generates heat, effectively killing the weed and weed seed. This method is suitable in areas where native vegetation is absent.

Chemical control methods

Herbicides are not always needed, but sometimes they offer the best and only practical method of controlling certain weeds. You must, however, follow all the instructions on the label and use recommended personal protective equipment.

Systemic herbicides are commonly used in weed control as they spread through the plant's vascular system, causing the entire plant to die. Some of these may be non-selective (capable of killing any plant), while others are selective, and may be used to target grassy, broad-leaved or woody weeds.

Frilling

This is different to ring-barking as it doesn't restrict herbicide uptake. Suitable for trunks larger than 5cm in circumference. Using an axe, cut a downward pocket through the bark into the tree's sapwood and immediately place herbicide into the cut. No further than 3cm apart, place the next cut, and continue to do this around the entire trunk.

Foliar spray

Apply herbicide to the plant, as directed on the label. Do not spray at times when the wind and/or rain will carry the spray elsewhere, causing off-target damage. Avoid spraying if the plants are stressed, as the chemicals will not be absorbed. Avoid spraying near waterways.

Cut and paint

This is suitable for woody weeds like trees, and shrubs. Cut the stem at ground level and immediately paint the exposed stem with herbicide.

Drill and fill

This is suitable for woody weeds like trees and shrubs. Drill small holes around the base of the trunk on a downward angle and immediately fill them with herbicide. Repeat the treatment around the base of the plant, placing holes 2-4cm apart.

Stem scrape

This is often used on plants and vines that have aerial tubers. Scrape away a 10cm section of bark along the stem, exposing the layer below it. A systemic herbicide is then applied immediately.

Quick reference

Weed control methods


Manual removal — Pulling/digging


Slashing and mowing


Suppression


Solarisation


Chemical control: Frilling


Chemical control: Foliar spray


Chemical control: Cut and paint


Chemical control: Drill and fill


Chemical control: Stem scrape

Wildlife-attracting plants

These symbols indicate that the plant attracts:


Butterflies


Other insects e.g. bees and ants


Birds


Reptiles

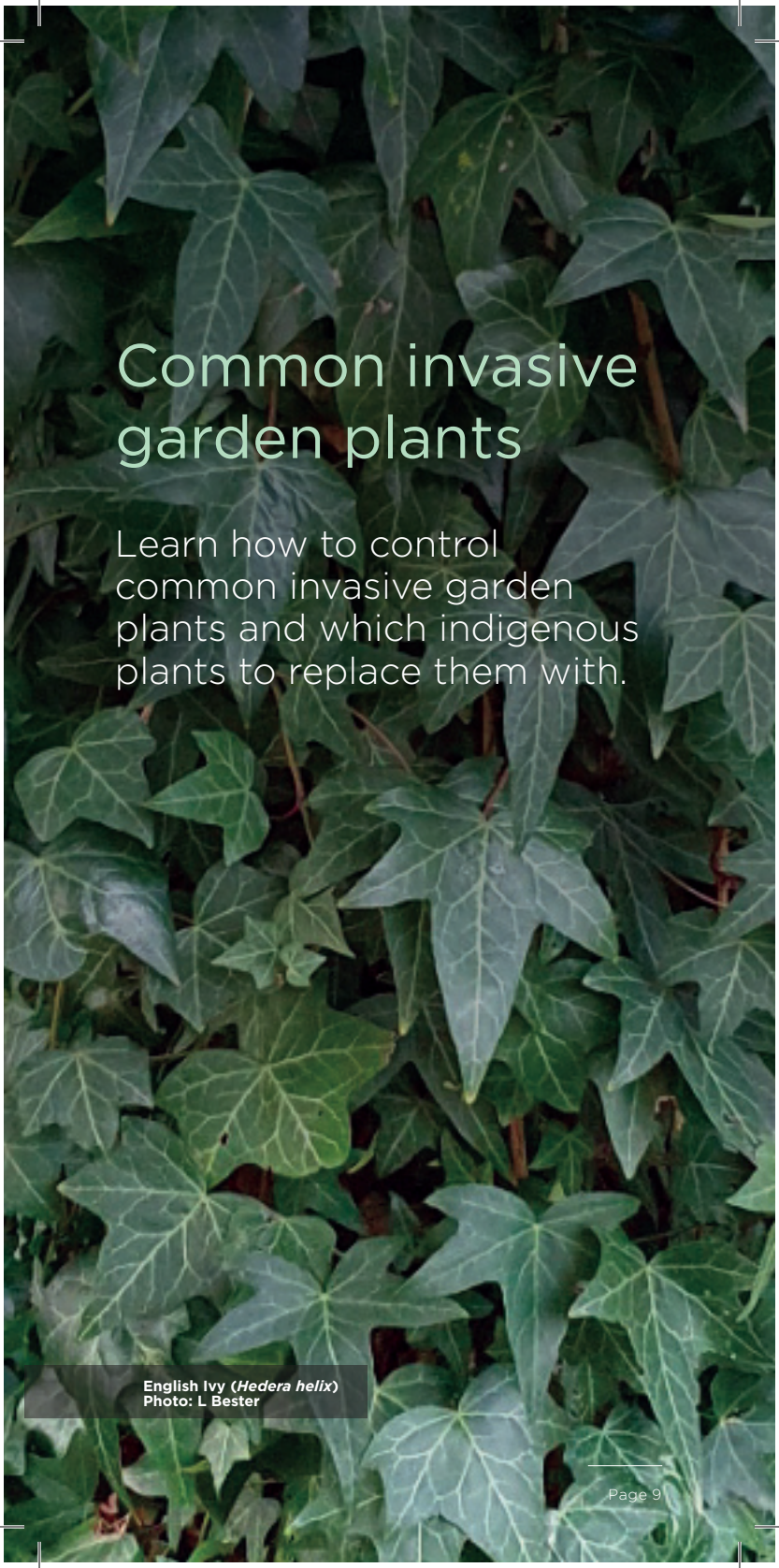

Frogs


Bats

These animals might use the plants noted for a range of reasons including as food, shelter, and nesting sites.

Common invasive garden plants

Learn how to control common invasive garden plants and which indigenous plants to replace them with.



English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Photo: L Bester

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Photos: C Boase

African Love-grass

Eragrostis curvula

Description: This long-lived tussock originates from South Africa and is a major environmental weed. It grows to between 30 and 120cm high. It tends to have an upright habit, though as it matures it can develop a weeping habit.

How it spreads: Its seeds readily spread from gardens, roadsides and disturbed areas into natural areas and pastures, largely via wind, water, animals, and soil. It can form dense stands, leading to the remnant vegetation being crowded out and its regeneration being suppressed. Once mature, it's not very palatable to animals that may otherwise have assisted with its control. Some native grasses look very similar, so care needs to be taken when it comes to identification.

How to control it: Early detection is key to avoiding large infestations. Manual control is not recommended unless the seed-laden soil is immediately covered with dense plantings. Carefully spot spray individual plants between July and December to kill the plants and prevent further seed set.

Common Tussock-grass

Poa labillardierei var. labillardierei

Form: Large tussock
Size: Foliage 30-80cm high x 0.5-1.5m wide. Flower stems to 1.2m high.
Growing conditions: A hardy plant that grows in moist to slightly dry soils. Full sun to part shade.
Flowers: October to February.
General information: This frost-tolerant grass grows vigorously and is commonly used in landscaping. It provides habitat for animals, seeds, nesting material and food for caterpillars.


Photos: M Dell

Kangaroo Grass

Themeda triandra

Form: Sprawling perennial tussock.
Size: Foliage 30-50cm high x 20-60 cm wide. Flower stems to 1m.
Growing conditions: Prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Does not tolerate very wet conditions.
Flowers: September to February.
General information: This beautiful grass has a weeping nature. It's great habitat for animals, providing seeds, nesting material and food for caterpillars.


Photos: M Dell

Broom Spurge

Amperea xiphoclada var. xiphoclada

Form: Small shrub
Size: 30-80cm x 40-50cm.
Growing conditions: A hardy plant preferring moist, often sandy soils in full sun or semi-shade.
Flowers: September to February.
General information: An interesting foliage plant suitable for rockeries and underplanting. Looks good in mass plantings.


Photos: M Dell

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Photos: L Bester

Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis

Description: This hardy, popular garden plant is a serious environmental weed which is difficult to kill.

How it spreads: Seed heads contain hundreds of seeds which readily spread into roadsides, bushland and waterways via wind, water and soil. It also spreads vegetatively via rhizomes (underground stems which produce the shoot and root systems of new plants), and through the dumping of garden waste that contains rhizomes and/or seeds. Many gardeners and nurseries sell and/or share them.

How to control it: Remove small clumps by hand, ensuring that all of the plant parts, including the rhizomes, are completely removed. Digging up larger clumps can prove very difficult; a more practical method of removal involves slashing it to ground level and immediately applying a suitable herbicide. Remove all flower heads before the seeds develop. All plant waste must be disposed of appropriately via your green-waste bin to avoid further spread.

Lomandra/Mat-Rush

Lomandra longifolia subsp. longifolia

Form: Large tufted tussock

Size: 0.5-1.2m x 0.5-1m

Growing conditions: Prefers moist, well-drained soil and tolerates moderate salty winds. Full sun to semi-shade. Hardy and frost tolerant.

Flowers: September to February.

General information: A dense perennial that's perfect for landscaping. It provides food for caterpillars, nectar for butterflies, seeds for birds, and habitat for frogs and reptiles.

Photo: L Bester
Inset:
K Rutherford

Common Fringe-myrtle

Calytrix tetragona

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 1-2m x 1-2m

Growing conditions: Well-drained and rocky soils. Full sun, semi-shade.

Flowers: September to February; flower colour ranges from white to pink.

General information: A highly variable, perennial shrub. Very attractive in flower. Prune to promote bushiness.

Photos: L Bester

Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta var. revoluta

Form: Medium tufted perennial spreading by rhizomes (underground stems)

Size: 0.5-1.5m x 0.3-0.8m

Growing conditions: Tolerates highly variable conditions, including snow and frost. Prefers well-drained, drier clay soils. Full sun, semi-shade.

Flowers: September to January.

General information: A widespread perennial that's great for landscaping. Highly tolerant once established.

Photo: L Bester
Inset: M Dell

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Photos: L Bester

Arum Lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Description: This large, fleshy, perennial herb, with long-stemmed, funnel-shaped flowers, is a significant weed in Australia where it is known to form large clumps in damp habitats, eliminating native species from those areas. It originates from South Africa and has unfortunately been planted in many home gardens. The entire plant is toxic to humans (particularly children), stock, pets and other animals. Many nurseries continue to sell this plant, including many cultivars.

How it spreads: It spreads vegetatively via rhizomes and associated structures, as well as via seed. Gardeners sharing, selling or dumping plants, parts of the rhizome, and/ or soil containing seeds, contribute to its spread.

How to control it: Manual removal is only effective if the entire plant can be dug up, including its rhizomes. Chemical control is the only option with large infestations. A suitable herbicide should be applied between June and October when they tend to be actively growing. Dispose of flowers appropriately before fruit ripens. Follow up is essential.

Long Purple-flag

Patersonia occidentalis var. occidentalis

Form: Compact clumping perennial herb
Size: 20-80cm x 30-60cm
Growing conditions: Prefers poorly-drained soils, but can tolerate dry summer soils, with full sun or semi-shade.
Flowers: September to January
General information: An attractive addition to home gardens within rockeries, bogs, and water features.


Photo: L Bester

Wedding Bush

Ricinocarpos pinifolius

Form: Small to medium shrub
Size: 3m x 2m
Growing conditions: Prefers moist, sandy soils, in full sun or partial shade. Tolerates coastal conditions where sheltered from salty winds.
Flowers: September to November.
General information: This woody perennial is a very attractive shrub for home gardens, with an abundance of scented flowers.


Photo: L Bester
Inset: L Norden

Tall Sedge

Carex appressa

Form: Large tufted sedge
Size: 0.5-1.2m x 0.5-1m
Growing conditions: Prefers soils with poor drainage, and can tolerate periods of inundation.
Flowers: August to January.
General information: A perennial sedge that forms dense clumps up to 50cm in diameter, growing from underground rhizomes. Provides nesting material and safety for birds.


Photo:
K Rutherford
Inset: P Butters

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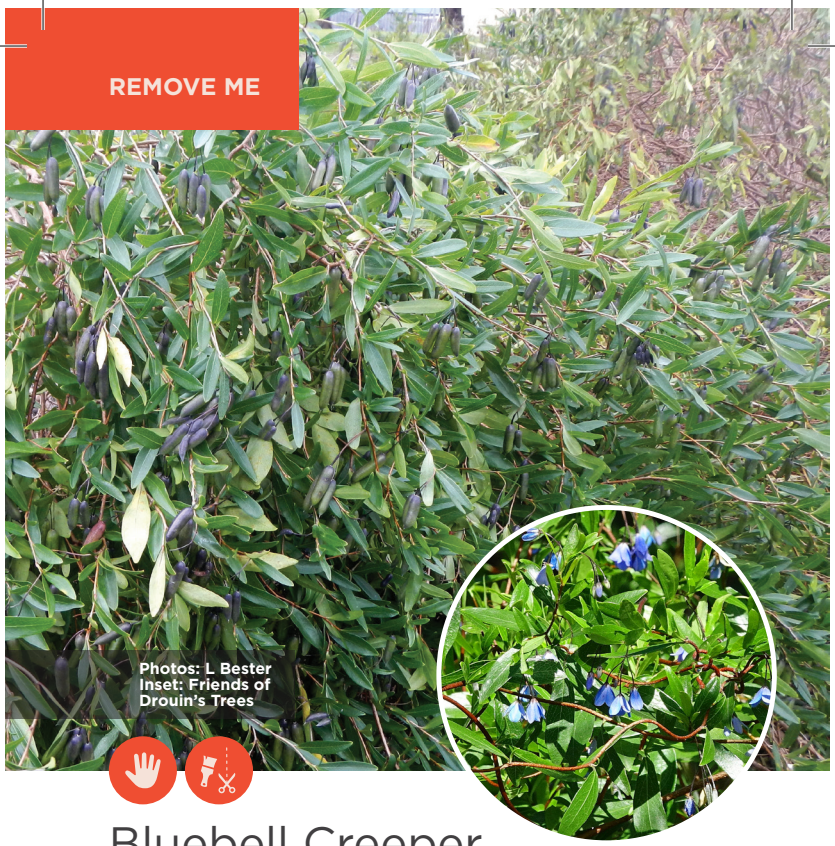


Photos: L Bester
Inset: Friends of Drouin's Trees

Bluebell Creeper

*Billardiera fusiformis (*formerly *Sollya heterophylla)*

Description: This climbing shrub is an Australian native that originated in Western Australia. Bluebell creeper has become a serious environmental weed after being grown as an ornamental plant and distributed far and wide. It forms dense masses which smother smaller shrubs and ground-flora. Small, drooping flowers grow in groups of 1-5, ranging from white to blue in colour. The fruit is green when young, becoming much darker with age.

How it spreads: Its seeds are dispersed largely by birds, or dumped garden refuse, and as with many of Australia's worst woody weeds, the soil-stored seed is activated following fire or disturbance. Plants are also available in many retail nurseries.

How to control it: Pull out or dig up, ensuring that all of the roots are removed. Alternatively, cut stem low, and paint with herbicide. Dispose of plant material responsibly via your green waste bin. Do not spray. Follow up is essential.

Purple Coral-pea

Hardenbergia violacea

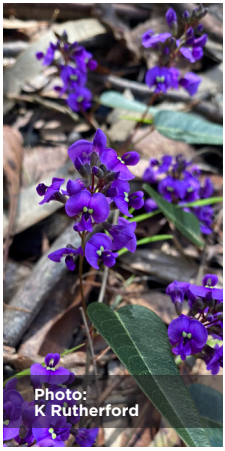
Form: Climber

Size: Trailing or climbing to 2m

Growing conditions: Well-drained soils in full sun or semi-shade, tolerates light frost.

Flowers: July to November.

General information: An attractive addition to any garden. Useful for screening and covering embankments. Local form produces deep purple flowers.



Forest Clematis

Clematis glycinoides var. glycinoides

Form: Climber

Size: 5-20m

Growing conditions: Moist soil in cool, sheltered location. Semi-shade to dappled. Tolerates more sun towards the canopy.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: This beautiful plant grows vigorously to create safe nesting sites for native birds, and is great habitat for native insects, too. Perfect for screening.

Wonga-vine

Pandorea pandorana

Form: Woody climber

Size: to 6m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soil. Full sun, semi-shade.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: Attractive climber that produces masses of tubular, cream-white flowers with maroon markings. Once established will tolerate extended dry periods. Provides shelter and food for birds and others animals.

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Vinca major: M Dell

Tradescantia spp.: L Bester

Blue Periwinkle and Wandering Trad

Vinca major and Tradescantia spp.

Description: Both species can completely dominate the understorey, smothering any indigenous plants that may be present. Blue Periwinkle is a groundcover from southern Europe and North Africa. Wandering Trad is a groundcover from South America. Both species prefer shady areas that are damp or wet most of the time. Wandering Trad leaves are known to cause skin rashes in pets, and is toxic to cattle.

How it spreads: Both spread mostly via an extensive root system and can take root from the leaf nodes, rather than from seed. Blue Periwinkle stems can survive and grow without soil contact for up to a year. Both readily spread from dumped garden rubbish, and plants being sold/shared.

How to control it: Manual removal is effective, as long as every plant part is removed and disposed of. You can also rake the plants into a pile, ensuring all roots are removed, and solarise them. Spraying in early spring with a registered herbicide, and adding a surfactant to enhance foliar penetration, can be effective.

Kidneyweed

Dichondra repens

Form: Prostrate, perennial herb
Size: Groundcover
Growing conditions: Prefers well-drained soils and partial, to full shade.
Frost tolerant.
Flowers: September to December.
General information: This small, perennial plant forms a dense mat in areas that are moist and shady. It can be used as an alternative to grass and tolerates light traffic.


Photo: M Dell
Inset: K Rutherford

Small-leaved Clematis

Clematis microphylla

Form: Medium-sized climber
Size: Climbs to 5m high
Growing conditions: Prefers dry, well-drained and rocky soils in full sun or partial shade. Tolerates frost.
Flowers: July to November.
General information: This middle storey plant is good for nesting birds, providing both shelter and nesting material. Great for screening but can smother other plants.

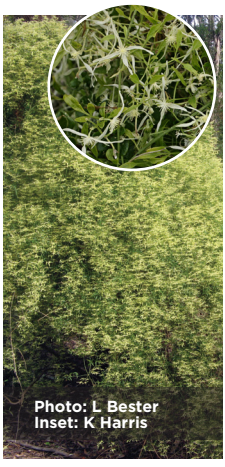
Photo: L Bester
Inset: K Harris

Angled Lobelia

Lobelia anceps

Form: Small perennial herb
Size: Prostrate, up to 30cm high and 1m across
Growing conditions: Prefers moist soil bordering swamps and watercourses with semi-shade. Tolerates frost.
Flowers: Much of the year with its peak from November to April.
General information: An attractive plant for bog gardens and pond borders.


Photo: M Dell

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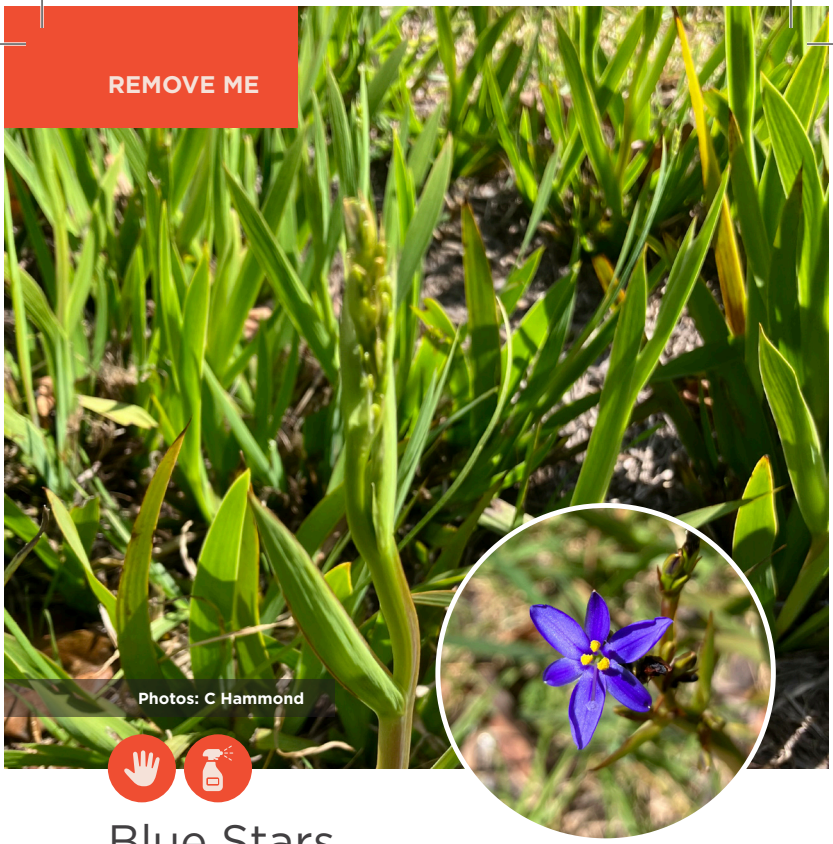

Photos: C Hammond

Blue Stars

Aristea ecklonii

Description: This species is a native to western and southern Africa, and is becoming a serious weed in Australia after being used in home garden plantings. It is a spreading, evergreen perennial with stiff, grass-like leaves, growing to 70cm high. In spring or early summer it produces masses of blue flowers. It grows in a wide range of conditions, having been found to invade roadsides, waterways, and bushland areas. Dense stands of Blue Stars outcompete native species and lead to self-sustaining monocultures.

How it spreads: Blue Stars readily spread via seed which is dispersed by wind, water, machinery, and animals. It also reproduces vegetatively via rhizomes and corms.

How to control it: It's possible to control it by digging it up and removing all of the rhizomes. It's important to avoid having it set seed, by removing flowers and fruits (before they open) between spring and autumn. Chemical control can work, but follow up is required.

Bulbine Lily

Bulbine bulbosa

Form: Tufted perennial herb
Size: 20-60cm x 30cm
Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. Full sun to light shade. Tolerates frost.
Flowers: September to January.
General information: An attractive lily suited to rockeries, and flower gardens. Also makes an excellent container plant. Will die back during dry periods, but re-sprouts from its corm with watering.


Photos: L Bester

Blue Pincushion

Brunonia australis

Form: Perennial herb
Size: 10-50cm x 10-15cm
Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. Tolerates extended dry periods.
Flowers: October to January.
General information: This is a great addition to rock gardens, or at the base of trees, especially if planted in large numbers or drifts. It provides nectar for local butterflies.


Photo: L Bester

Butterfly Flag/White Iris

Diplarrena moraea

Form: Tussock-forming perennial herb
Size: 50cm-1m x 30-60cm
Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Frost tolerant.
Flowers: October to December.
General information: Produces masses of flowers. Attractive in garden beds, near water features, and in rockeries. Avoid confusion with the weed *Dietes iridioides*.


Photos: M Dell

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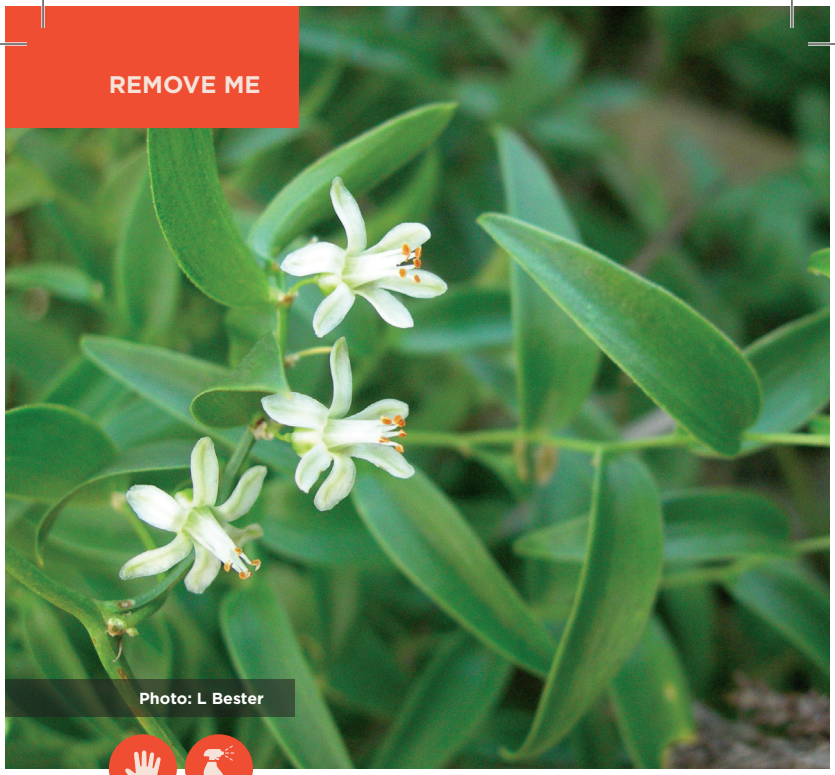


Photo: L Bester

Bridal Creeper

Asparagus asparagoides

Description: This Weed of National Significance is a herbaceous climber from South Africa, capable of growing very densely, smothering large areas of native vegetation. It tolerates a wide range of conditions, actively growing in autumn and winter to 3m, and dying back over summer.

How it spreads: This plant spreads rapidly from bird- and animal-dispersed seeds or from root fragments. Dumped garden waste and contaminated machinery also contribute to its spread.

How to control it: The best timing for control is June to August. Manual removal is only suitable over small areas due to the high level of soil disturbance caused. All underground rhizomes and tubers must be removed and bagged for disposal. Careful spot spraying is proven effective, but follow up is required over a two-year period.

Forest Clematis

Clematis glycinoides var. glycinoides

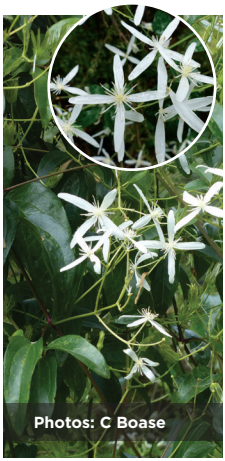
Form: Climber

Size: 5-20m

Growing conditions: Moist soil in cool, sheltered location. Semi-shade to dappled. Tolerates more sun towards the canopy.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: This beautiful plant grows vigorously to create safe nesting sites for native birds, and is great habitat for native insects, too. Perfect for screening.



Photos: C Boase

Austral/Mountain Clematis

Clematis aristata

Form: Climber

Size: Climbs to 15m high

Growing conditions: Moist to well-drained soil in full shade to full sun.

Flowers: August to March.

General information: Provides both shelter and nesting material for birds. Great for screening but can smother other plants.

Photo: L Bester
Inset: K Harris

Running Postman

Kennedia prostrata

Form: Woody prostrate small shrub

Size: Groundcover, spreading 1-2.5m

Growing conditions: Well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Light frosts are tolerated.

Flowers: April to December.

General information: A popular food plant of native caterpillars and butterflies. An attractive groundcover that is great for rock gardens, embankments and hanging baskets.

Photo: M Dell

REMOVE ME

Photo: L Bester

Broad-leaved/ Glossy Privet

Ligustrum lucidum

Description: This plant is native to eastern Asia, and is often seen in home gardens where it's sometimes used as a hedge or windbreak. It can grow up to 25m high across a large range of conditions, with fruit in large branched clusters during autumn and winter. In many parts of Australia it causes significant environmental damage through the formation of dense thickets which shade out and displace native species. The leaves and fruit of Broad-leaved Privet are poisonous to livestock and humans. The pollen is also a significant irritant.

How it spreads: Seeds are spread by animals, particularly birds. Seeds may also be spread in dumped garden waste. It can produce suckers from its roots, if they are not removed.

How to control it: Small plants can be controlled effectively by pulling them out manually, particularly after rain when the soil is loose. For stems up to 10cm in diameter, cut stem close to the ground and immediately apply herbicide. Frilling, and drilling and filling are options for larger trees. Spraying is an option for large numbers of seedlings, away from indigenous plants.

Muttonwood

Myrsine howittiana

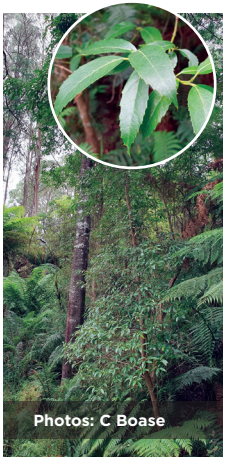
Form: Understorey tree or large shrub
Size: 3-15m x 2-4m
Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils in partial to full shade. Tolerates light to moderate frosts.
Flowers: May to August and November to January.
General information: Useful screening plant. Small round blue fruit develops along stems between December and June. Fruit attracts birds.


Photos: FoDT

Austral Mulberry

Hedycarya angustifolia

Form: Understorey tree or large shrub
Size: 3-7m x 4m
Growing conditions: Damp, rich soils in partial to full shade. Snow and frost tolerant.
Flowers: August to December.
General information: Grow in a protected position; good plant for screening. The berries are not for consumption by humans, but they attract native birds and bats.


Photos: C Boase

Mountain Pepper

Tasmannia lanceolata

Form: Medium shrub
Size: 1.5-4m x 1-2.5m
Growing conditions: Moist soils on slopes and in gullies. Semi-shade. Frost and snow tolerant.
Flowers: September to November.
General information: A great plant for screening, which responds well to pruning. It provides food for caterpillars. Leaves and fruit are popular bush foods.


Photos: L Bester

REMOVE ME

Photos: K Rutherford

Broom

Genista monspessulana, Genista linifolia, Cytisus scoparius

Description: These highly invasive shrubs are Weeds of National Significance— posing serious threat to natural and agricultural areas where they form dense infestations. Each species grows between 3 and 5 m tall, has woody stems and a shrubby habit. They favour disturbed sites, but may invade intact bushland. They may be mistaken for indigenous species such as Goodenia and Goodia.

How they spread: At maturity, each plant produces thousands of seeds. Seed can remain dormant and viable in soil for several years, resulting in a large soil seed bank. Fire can stimulate germination, resulting in dense infestations. Seed may be spread via machinery, water, animals and illegal dumping.

How to control them: Small numbers may be removed by hand, or cut close to the ground and immediately painted with herbicide. Plant material containing seed must be bagged carefully for disposal. Foliar spraying, with a selective herbicide, is an option in the absence of native vegetation. Plants with stems greater than 50mm in circumference can be drilled and filled with an appropriate herbicide. Follow up is essential in all cases.

Hop Bitter-pea

Daviesia latifolia

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 1-3m x 1-2m

Growing conditions: Adaptable to most soils, but often found in dry, well-drained clay soils. Full sun, semi-shade. Frost and snow tolerant.

Flowers: September to December.

General information: Suitable for massed plantings for screening or hedges. Responds well to pruning. Provides nectar for many native birds and insects.


Photo: M Dell

Erect Guinea-flower

Hibbertia riparia

Form: Small shrub

Size: 0.3-1.2m x 0.6m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. Full sun to sem-shade. Tolerates light frosts.

Flowers: September to December.

General information: It produces a large number of flowers. Provides food for native caterpillars and insects. Pruning increases bushiness.


Photo: M Dell

Rusty Bush-pea

Pultenaea hispidula

Form: Small to medium shrub

Size: 0.3-1m x 0.5-2m

Growing conditions: Moist to well-drained soils in partial shade. Can tolerate moderate frosts.

Flowers: September to December.

General information: Flowers profusely. Provides food for native caterpillars and insects, and shelter from predators for lizards. Best planted beneath established trees.


Photo: M Dell

REMOVE ME

Photos: K Rutherford

Cedar Wattle

Acacia elata — Australian native plant

Description: This fast-growing wattle is native to the tablelands and coastal districts of central and northern New South Wales where it grows up to 20m high in rainforests, wet sclerophyll forests and tall open forests in deep sandy soils along waterways and in deep gullies. It has been used in parks and gardens throughout Australia, often as a windbreak. In Victoria, and elsewhere, it has become a significant environmental weed.

How it spreads: Reproduction is entirely by seed, which is dispersed by wind, water, animals, dumped garden waste, and people and nurseries sharing and/or selling them.

How to control it: Small plants can be controlled effectively by pulling them out manually, particularly after rain when the soil is loose. For stems up to 10cm in diameter, cut stem close to the ground and immediately apply herbicide. Frilling, and drilling and filling are options for larger trees.

Sunshine Wattle

Acacia terminalis

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 1-6m high

Growing conditions: Grows in a wide range of soils and habitats, in full sun or partial shade. Often found near disturbed sites including roads and plantations.

Flowers: June to September.

General information: An attractive, fast-growing garden plant with beautiful, fern-like foliage. Growth habit is variable depending on the growing conditions.

Photo: M Dell

Silver Banksia

Banksia marginata

Form: Medium shrub, small tree

Size: 1-6m x 1-4m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. It can tolerate coastal conditions, wet winter soils, frost and snow. Full sun, semi-shade.

Flowers: February to June.

General information: This evergreen tree provides nectar for a large range of native animals during autumn, including birds, bats and insects.

Photo: M Dell

Blackwood

Acacia melanoxylon

Form: Tree

Size: 5-30m x 4-15m

Growing conditions: Moist, fertile soils, in full or partial sun. Will tolerate drier conditions once established. It also tolerates frost.

Flowers: July to October.

General information: A great food and habitat plant for many animals. Suitable for shade and screening. Roots sucker if damaged.

Photo: L Bester

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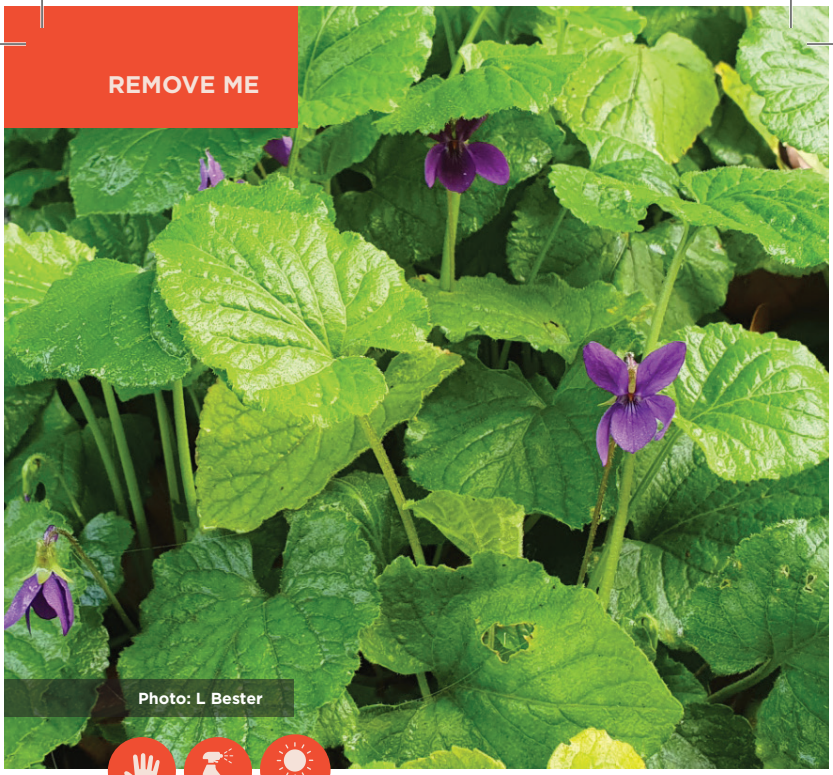

Photo: L Bester

Common Violet

Viola odorata

Description: This is a common environmental weed in South Australia and Victoria, and is a growing problem elsewhere, leading to its 'high risk' listing in Victoria's Advisory List of Environmental Weeds. It is native to Europe, the Madeira Islands, the Azores, the Canary Islands, and western Asia. It tends to prefer moist, shady areas, creating a smothering carpet in the understorey that native vegetation can't compete with. It flowers from August to December.

How it spreads: It spreads via rhizomes under the surface of the soil. The seeds are spread via water, machinery and shoes carrying its seeds elsewhere. People and nurseries spread the plant further by sharing and/or selling it.

How to control it: In the absence of native vegetation, they can be solarised with black plastic. Individuals and/or smaller patches can be removed by hand, ensuring that all rhizomes are removed; this is best done when the soil is damp. Alternatively, it can be sprayed with a suitable herbicide.

Showy Violet

Viola betonicifolia

Form: Small perennial herb

Size: 15-30cm x 15-40cm

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soil, but may occur on drier soils. Semi-shade to full shade. Tolerates frost and snow.

Flowers: September to February.

General information: A great plant for rockeries, it self-seeds and can grow vigorously with the right conditions. Attracts butterflies.

Photo: M Dell
Inset: K Harris

Blue Dampiera

Dampiera stricta

Form: Small perennial herb

Size: 30-80cm x 0.3-2m

Growing conditions: Moist to well-drained soils in full sun or semi-shade. Frost tolerant.

Flowers: May to January.

General information: An attractive perennial plant which grows from underground rhizomes and benefits from pruning. Suitable for growing on embankments or under trees.

Photo: M Dell
Inset: L Norden

Ivy-leaf Violet

Viola hederacea

Form: Small perennial herb

Size: 10-15cm high, spreading 1-2m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained to dryish soils in partial to full shade.

Flowers: Most of the year, particularly October to December.

General information: Will form a dense mat where conditions are suitable.

Photo: M Dell
Inset: P Butters

REMOVE ME

Photos: K Rutherford

Cootamundra Wattle

Acacia baileyana — Australian native plant

Description: This wattle has a very limited natural distribution, occurring only in certain districts of the inland parts of southern New South Wales. It is arguably the most cultivated wattle in Australia, where it has often been used in parks and gardens, subsequently spreading further afield. It grows in a wide range of conditions, preferring a cooler climate. Grows up to 10m high, though more commonly to 6m.

How it spreads: Masses of long-lived seed accumulate in the soil and germinate with fire or soil disturbance. Animals, water, wind, shoes, and machinery are known to assist seed spread. Further spread occurs through the dumping of garden waste and through the nursery trade.

How to control it: Care needs to be taken not to confuse this species with local native plants. Control should be undertaken prior to seed setting. Pull up small plants by hand, shake to remove soil and hang up so that the roots dry out. Cut and paint stems up to 10cm in diameter. Frilling, and drilling and filling are options for larger trees.

Silver Wattle

Acacia dealbata

Form: Understorey tree

Size: 6-30m x 5-10m.

Growing conditions: Prefers deep, moist soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates moderate frost.

Flowers: July to October.

General information: Useful for erosion control. Fast growing. Provides habitat for gliders and possums, and food for sugar gliders, caterpillars and insects.

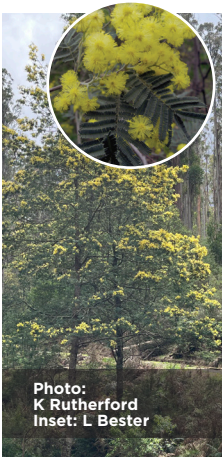

Photo:
K Rutherford
Inset: L Bester

Hedge Wattle

Acacia paradoxa

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 2-4m x 2-5m

Growing conditions: Dry to moist, well-drained soil. Full sun, semi-shade.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: Great screening plant. Its prickly nature provides excellent bird refuge.

Photo: L Bester

Golden Wattle

Acacia pycnantha

Form: Understorey tree, large shrub

Size: 3-10m x 2-5m

Growing conditions: Well-drained, loamy soils. Full sun, semi-shade. Tolerates light to moderate frosts.

Flowers: July to October.

General information: Australia's floral emblem. Fast growing and drought tolerate. Prune whilst young to encourage dense growth. Useful for screening, windbreaks and erosion control.

Photo: L Bester

REMOVE ME

Photo: A Lamb
Inset: L Bester

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster spp.

Description: A highly invasive environmental weed in many parts of Australia, often grown in home gardens. These shrubs grow to 5m and were commonly used as hedging. They produce small, white flowers during spring and summer, followed by red berries which persist for several months. The range of species found here originates largely from China. These plants cause significant damage to natural ecosystems.

How it spreads: Cotoneaster produce masses of small, red berries that are spread by birds and other animals. Seeds are also spread by machinery, water, shoes, illegal dumping, and selling and/or sharing the plants. Unfortunately, some nurseries still sell some species of Cotoneaster.

How to control it: Cotoneaster should be controlled before the fruit develops. Pull up small plants by hand, shake to remove soil and hang up so that the roots dry out. Ensure that the tap root is dug up. Cut and paint stems up to 10cm in diameter. Frilling, and drilling and filling are used on larger trees. If the plant is cut without applying herbicide, it will produce suckers.

Smooth/Heath Parrot-pea

Dillwynia glaberrima

Form: Shrub
Size: Up to 2m high x up to 2m wide
Growing conditions: It prefers dry, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Tolerates frost.
Flowers: August to December.
General information: A good plant for growing under established trees. Its attractive flowers range from pale cream to bright yellow, attracting many native insects.


Photo: L Bester

Dusty Miller

Spyridium parvifolium

Form: Medium shrub
Size: 1-2m x 1 -2m
Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils in semi-shaded positions. Tolerates dryness once established.
Flowers: July to November.
General information: An attractive addition to any home garden. Flowers for a long time and provides dense foliage for small birds to shelter amongst.


Photo: L Bester
Inset: M Dell

Prickly Currant-bush

Coprosma quadrifida

Form: Medium shrub
Size: 2-4m x 1-2m
Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soil; semi-shade to full shade. Frost tolerant.
Flowers: September to January.
General information: A prickly plant that provides habitat and food for native birds. The small, sweet, edible fruit occurs January to March.


Photo: L Bester
Inset: K Harris

REMOVE ME

Photos: K Rutherford

Desert Ash

Fraxinus angustifolia subsp. angustifolia

Description: A large, deciduous tree, native to Africa and south-western Europe. Desert Ash was commonly used in the past as a garden and street tree in temperate regions of Australia. It has since become a highly invasive weed, growing in a wide range of conditions, to 12m high, but sometimes up to 20m. It is capable of completely taking over natural areas.

How it spreads: Reproduction is via winged seeds and lateral root suckers. Sections of stems and branches can take root when in contact with moist soil. The seeds spread mainly via wind, water, animals, people, and dumped garden waste.

How to control it: Desert Ash should be controlled just before spring, when they flower. Pull up small plants by hand, shake to remove soil and hang up so that the roots dry out. Ensure that all roots are dug up. Cut and paint stems up to 10cm in diameter. Frilling, and drilling and filling are used on larger trees, with an appropriate herbicide. If a herbicide is not used on cut stems, it will produce suckers.

Silver-leaf/Mealy Stringybark

Eucalyptus cephalocarpa

Form: Tree

Size: 8-20m x 5-15m

Growing conditions: Moist sand, or poor clay soils in low-lying areas and swamps. Tolerates drier conditions in summer. Moderate to light frosts; full sun to semi-shade.

Flowers: March to August.

General information: A great habitat tree for a range of native animals. New foliage is silver in colour and makes an attractive garden feature. Known as a valuable honey tree.


Photo: M Dell

Messmate

Eucalyptus obliqua

Form: Tree

Size: 10-90m x 6-35m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates dry periods of short duration, frost and snow.

Flowers: December to March.

General information: A great habitat tree for a range of native animals, providing food for both caterpillars and butterflies. Plant in a position that's suitable for very large trees.


Photo: L Bester

Narrow-leaved Peppermint

Eucalyptus radiata

Form: Tree

Size: 10-30m x 6-20m

Growing conditions: Moist to drier soils in full sun or semi-shade. Tolerates snow and light frost.

Flowers: October to January.

General information: A great habitat tree for a range of native animals, including koalas, birds, caterpillars and butterflies. Plant in a position that's suitable for large trees.


Photo: L Bester

REMOVE ME

Photos: L Bester

English and Cape Ivy

Hedera helix and *Delairea odorata*

Description: Both species are fast growing and aggressively invasive, particularly in moist habitats. They are not native to Australia and are often found to smother areas of native vegetation, including trees and shrubs, that often die from restricted photosynthesis. Apart from their appearance, they differ in that Cape Ivy loses its leaves during late summer and early autumn, while English Ivy is an evergreen plant. Both are poisonous and an irritant to mammals.

How they spread: Seed and stem fragments are spread via wind, water, dumped garden waste, animals, clothing, machinery, and selling/sharing these plants. Some nurseries still sell these, despite the damage they cause.

How to control them: Manual control is not ideal, as removing all the plant parts that can regrow is very difficult. Ground-level suppression or solarisation is an option, alongside cutting and painting or stem scraping the climbing stems. Cape Ivy can be sprayed in winter, and English Ivy can be sprayed any time. Always follow up.

Creeping Boobialla

Myoporum parvifolium

Form: Prostrate shrub

Size: 10cm x 2.4m

Growing conditions: A hardy plant growing in a range of soil types and climates, though it prefers clay. Tolerates saline conditions. Full sun.

Flowers: October to March.

General information: This is a fast-growing plant that benefits from mulch and water until established.

Forest Bindweed

Calystegia marginata

Form: Herbaceous climber

Size: Twining up to 2m

Growing conditions: Moist to wet areas, semi-shade to full shade.

Flowers: October to January.

General information: A light, perennial climber that gently drapes itself on surrounding plants, with no threat of smothering them. An attractive alternative to Ivy.

Small-leaved Clematis

Clematis microphylla

Form: Medium-sized climber

Size: Climbs up to 5m high

Growing conditions: Well-drained and rocky soils in full sun or semi-shade. Tolerates frost.

Flowers: July to November.

General information: This middle storey plant is good for nesting birds, providing both shelter and nesting material. An attractive climber on fences and may be used for screening.

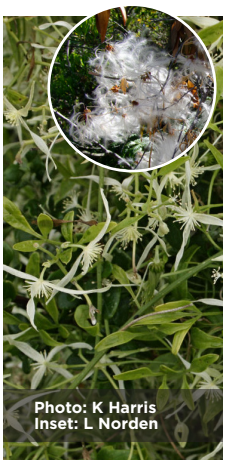

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Photo: C Boase
Inset: T Glover

Gazanias

Gazania spp.

Description: These long-lived, highly invasive plants originate from South Africa, and are often found in home gardens. They have caused significant damage to natural areas, spreading rapidly across coastal habitats, grasslands, heathlands and open woodlands in various parts of Australia. They grow to about 30cm high and have spreading stems.

How it spreads: The plants spread mostly via the large amounts of seed that they produce, though their stems can break off and form new plants. The seeds readily spread with the help of wind, water, animals, clothing, dumped garden waste, and machinery. Spread is also caused by sharing or selling these plants. Many nurseries still sell them, despite the damage they cause.

How to control it: Manual control can work well for small infestations, as long as the underground rhizome is not left behind. Slashing and mowing doesn't work well for this species. Spot spraying with an appropriate, registered herbicide is a good choice for larger infestations.

Clustered Everlasting

Chrysocephalum semipapposum

Form: Perennial herb

Size: 0.3-0.8m x 1-3m

Growing conditions: Moist to dry soils; full sun to semi-shade. Frost tolerant.

Flowers: October to April.

General information: An attractive plant for creating swathes of yellow flowers in summer, or for underplanting trees. Cut back after flowering. A food plant for caterpillars and butterflies. Plants die back each year after flowering.

Photo: M Dell
Inset: K Harris

Button Everlasting

Coronidium scorpioides

Form: Perennial herb

Size: 20-30cm x 20-30cm

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. Full sun, semi-shade. Frost tolerant.

Flowers: September to December.

General information: Great for rockeries and planting in drifts under trees. Plants die back each year after flowering finishes.

Photos: M Dell

Cut-leaf Daisy

Brachyscome multifida

Form: Perennial herb

Size: 10-40cm x 0.2-1m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained, shallow, rocky soils and clays in full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates light frost.

Flowers: Peaks from September to February.

General information: A popular garden plant. Attracts butterflies.

Photo: M Dell

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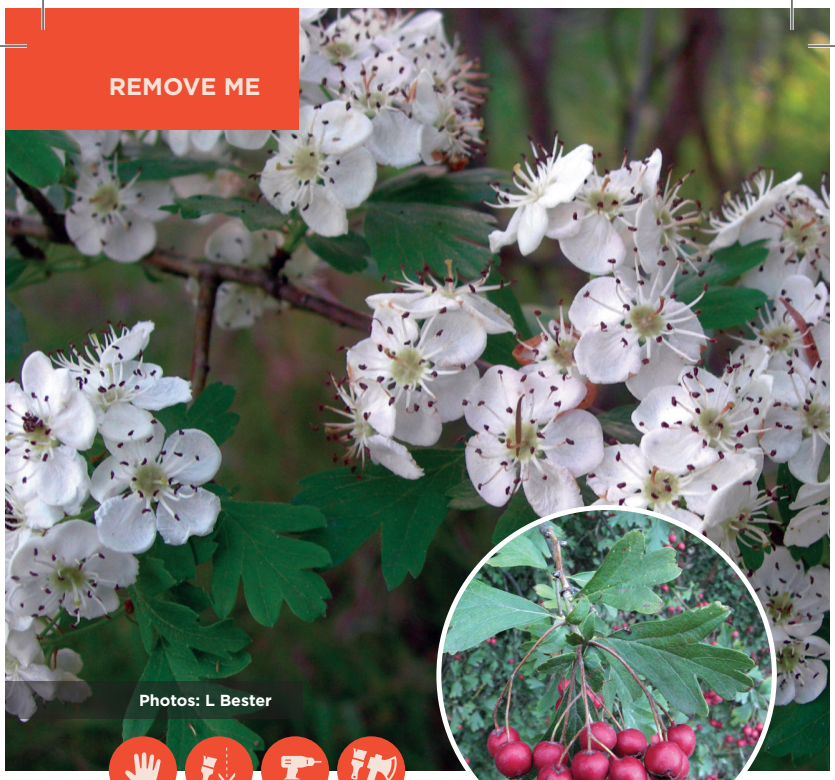


Photos: L Bester

Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

Description: This small tree, or large shrub, is a highly invasive plant from Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia. It is a declared Noxious Weed in Australia which has invaded forests, woodlands, and riparian areas across south-east Australia. It grows up to 10m high, flowers October to December, and usually features large thorns all over its stems.

How it spreads: The plant produces copious amounts of small, red berries that are savoured by birds and other animals, spreading the seed far and wide in their droppings. Further spread occurs via water, dumped garden waste, clothing, machinery, and people selling/sharing these plants. Thickets are established through suckering along the ground. Some nurseries still sell this plant, despite the damage it causes.

How to control it: Manual control is only suitable for small plants; any remaining roots will reshoot. Cut and paint stems, up to 10cm in diameter, immediately with Glyphosate. Frilling, and drilling and filling are options for larger trees using the same herbicide.

Sweet Bursaria

Bursaria spinosa

Form: Medium shrub, small tree

Size: 2-6m x 2-3m

Growing conditions: Moist to dry, well-drained soils; full sun to semi-shade. Tolerant to both frost and snow.

Flowers: November to February.

General information: Bushy plants can be created by pruning when young. Attracts native insects, such as butterflies. An easy-to-grow plant that is attractive in flower and fruit.


Photo: J Murray

Saw Banksia

Banksia serrata

Form: Shrub, tree

Size: Up 16m high

Growing conditions: Prefers well-drained, sandy, low-nutrient soils in full sun. Summer watering aids growth.

Flowers: Mostly January to June.

General information: It can take several years to flower. If grown from cuttings, it takes about two years. Attracts native animals.


Photo: L Bester

Hairpin Banksia

Banksia cunninghamii

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 2-4m x 2-5m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained, clay soils, in full sun or partial shade. Tolerates frost.

Flowers: April to July.

General information: A great screening plant, perfect for planting below eucalypts. Bushiness is achieved by light pruning.


Photo: M Dell

REMOVE ME

Photo: N Wise
Inset: K Harris

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Description: Japanese Honeysuckle is a highly invasive climber that smothers native trees and shrubs and prevents the regeneration of native species. It originates from east Asia and has become a serious pest within Victoria and NSW, particularly in damp gullies, forests and bushland. Climbing to 10m with the ability to produce suckers, this plant forms large mats on the ground and within the canopy that smother and damage surrounding vegetation and infrastructure such as fences and buildings. It also has the potential to restrict sap flow in plants as it wraps around them.

How it spreads: Reproduction is via seed, and sections of branches that take root when in contact with moist soil. It also produces suckers. The seeds spread mainly via wind, water, animals, people, and dumped garden waste. People sell/share it, and some nurseries still sell it, despite the damage it causes.

How to control it: Manual control is the best option for this plant, as it helps to avoid off-target damage. Make sure to remove the roots to help reduce the amount of regrowth. Follow up is essential. For larger plants that can't easily be pulled up, cut the stems at 1m high and paint both ends.

Wonga-vine

Pandorea pandorana

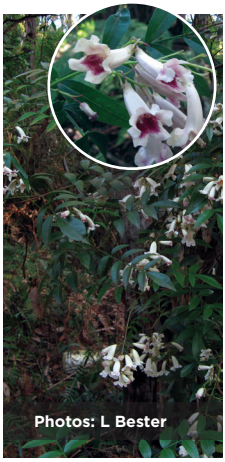
Form: Woody climber

Size: to 6m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soil. Full sun, semi-shade.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: Attractive climber that produces masses of tubular, cream-white flowers with maroon markings. Once established will tolerate extended dry periods. Provides shelter and food for birds and others animals.


Photos: L Bester

Large Bindweed

Calystegia sepium

Form: Climber

Size: Twining, up to 4m

Growing conditions: Moist to wet swampy conditions, including stream borders, in semi-shade. Will tolerate some drier positions

Flowers: October to January.

General information: A strong climber in wet areas, though it does not out-compete other plants. Flowers attract many native insects.


Photo: T Glover

Austral/Mountain Clematis

Clematis aristata

Form: Climber

Size: Climbs to 15m high

Growing conditions: Well-drained to moist soils; semi-shade to full sun.

Flowers: October to November.

General information: Provides shelter and nesting material for birds. Great for screening.

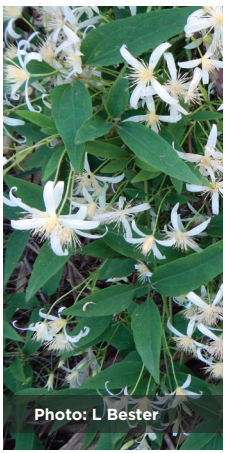


Photo: L Bester

REMOVE ME

Photos: C Boase

Mirror Bush

Coprosma repens

Description: This woody weed is a low, evergreen, spreading shrub to 8m high. The leaves are fleshy, shiny, broadly oval and bright green on the upper side, with a paler underside covered in glands. Originally from New Zealand, it's a serious environmental weed in parts of Australia, particularly coastal areas.

How it spreads: The plant produces large amounts of glossy, green berries that become orange-red as they ripen. Seeds are spread by birds and other animals. It can also take root from the lower branches. Further spread occurs via wind, water, clothing, dumped garden waste, machinery and sharing or selling these plants. Some nurseries still sell it, despite the damage it causes.

How to control it: Remove before fruiting. If it has fruit, bag it for disposal. Pulling or digging up smaller plants works well, as long as the tap root is dug out. For stems up to 10cm in diameter, cut close to the ground and immediately apply herbicide. Spraying is an option in non-sensitive areas.

Woolly Tea-tree

Leptospermum lanigerum

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 2-6m x 1-3m

Growing conditions: Moist to wet soils. Full sun, semi-shade. Frost and snow tolerant.

Flowers: September to January.

General information: Suitable for swampy areas and along waterways. Useful as a screening plant. Can be pruned to encourage dense growth. Produces masses of small, white flowers in spring/summer that provide nectar for butterflies and attract native birds.

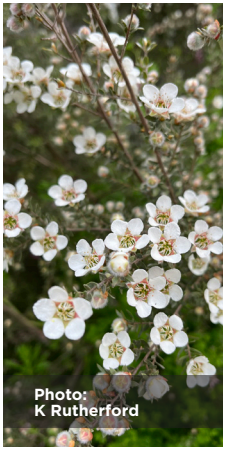


Photo:
K Rutherford

Musk Daisy-bush

Olearia argophylla

Form: Understorey tree, large shrub

Size: 3-10m x 3-5m

Growing conditions: Moist to wet, well-drained soils in low-lying sheltered areas in full to partial shade. Tolerates frost and snow.

Flowers: September to February.

General information: A good plant for screening or windbreaks. Thrives beneath established trees and benefits from pruning.


Photo: M Dell
Inset:
K Rutherford

Tree Violet

Melicytus dentatus

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 2-4m x 1-2.5m

Growing conditions: Moist, alluvial soils bordering water bodies, in full sun to partial shade. Tolerates snow and frost.

Flowers: July to December.

General information: Fragrant flowers. Plant growth varies depending on soil moisture. Provides habitat and food source for native birds.


Photo: L Bester
Inset: L Norden

REMOVE ME

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora: L Bester

Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera: M Dell

Montbretia and Wild Watsonia

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora and *Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera*

Description: These erect, perennial herbs are highly invasive environmental weeds in many parts of Australia; particularly moist areas. Watsonia grows to 2m high, while Montbretia only usually grows to 60cm high. The above-ground parts of each die back in autumn, leaving the rhizomes (creeping stems) and the corms (bulbs) from which they re-grow every year. Watsonia produces bulbils from its flower spike, which causes further spread. They both spread laterally, crowding out native vegetation if left uncontrolled.

How they spread: Predominately spread by water, soil, animals, machinery and dumped garden waste.

How to control them: Manual control can work okay for small infestations, as long as all of the plant parts are dug up and bagged for disposal. Spraying with a suitable herbicide is the most effective option, taking care to avoid off-target damage and misidentification. Follow up is essential.

Black-anther Flax-lily

Dianella revoluta var. revoluta

Form: Medium tufted perennial spreading by rhizomes (underground stems)

Size: 0.5-1.5m x 0.3-0.8m

Growing conditions: Tolerates highly variable conditions, including snow and frost. Prefers well-drained, drier clay soils. Full sun, semi-shade

Flowers: September to January.

General information: A widespread perennial that's great for landscaping. Highly tolerant once established.

Grass Trigger-plant

Stylidium graminifolium

Form: Tufted perennial herb, sometimes rhizomatous

Size: 20-75cm x 10-50cm

Growing conditions: Well-drained, sandy or gravelly soil. Full sun, semi-shade. Tolerates frost.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: An attractive plant that is recommended for rockeries, garden feature areas, or for planting in drifts. Attracts native insects.

Mountain Correa

Correa lawrenceana

Form: Shrub

Size: 2-8m x 2-5m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils in protected areas. Can tolerate dry periods once established. Semi-shade to full shade. Frost and snow tolerant.

Flowers: July to November.

General information: Produces attractive tubular flowers that provide food for native birds. Also provides bird habitat. Can grow quite large in favourable conditions.

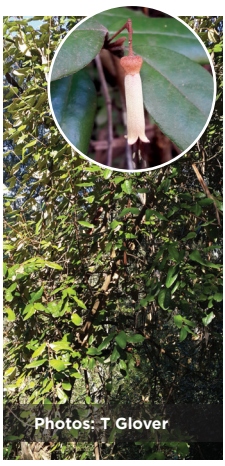


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Photo: L Bester

Pampas Grass

Cortaderia spp.

Description: This long-lived, South American perennial tussock grass is a highly invasive weed in Australia, severely affecting any natural areas it invades. It grows to 2m high and produces plumes of characteristic white or pinkish flowers. Given its size and its dense foliage cover, it tends to harbour vermin. It thrives in damp, sunny areas along streams, roadsides, degraded areas and amongst native vegetation.

How it spreads: For each flower head, the plant produces up to 100,000 seeds. These are spread via wind, water, shoes, machinery, dumped garden waste, and sharing or selling these plants. Further, it spreads via underground rhizomes.

How to control it: If small, it can be dug out, ensuring that the rhizomes are removed. For larger plants, remove any seed heads and bag for disposal before slashing the foliage, to assist with chemical uptake, and spraying the plant with an appropriate herbicide. Follow up will be needed to deal with any regrowth.

Red-fruit Saw-sedge

Gahnia sieberiana

Form: Tall tussock

Size: 1.5-3m x 2-3m

Growing conditions: Wet to moist, alluvial soils in full sun to full shade. Frost tolerant. Tolerates drier soils once established.

Flowers: October to January.

General information: Grows as a large clump which does not spread. Nuts are bright red and create a striking contrast with the black spiklets. Excellent habitat plant and food plant for the Sword-grass Brown Butterfly.


Photo: M Dell
Inset: B Fuhrer

Long-leaf/Shiny Cassinia

Cassinia longifolia

Form: Shrub

Size: 2-4m x 2-3m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. Often found in rocky sites. Will tolerate drier soils. Semi-shade to full shade.

Flowers: November to March.

General information: A fast-growing plant which is adaptable to most growing conditions. Pruning necessary to encourage bushiness.


Photo: L Bester
Inset:
K Rutherford

Tasman Flax-lily

Dianella tasmanica

Form: Tufted, perennial herb

Size: 0.6-1.5m x 0.5-2m

Growing conditions: Moist soil in cool, sheltered position. Semi-shade to full shade. Tolerates frost and snow, and drier conditions. Well-adapted to most situations and very tolerant once established.

Flowers: October to February.

General information: Plant under trees to avoid full sun. Useful for garden edging. Will spread via rhizomes.


Photo: S Leibrecht

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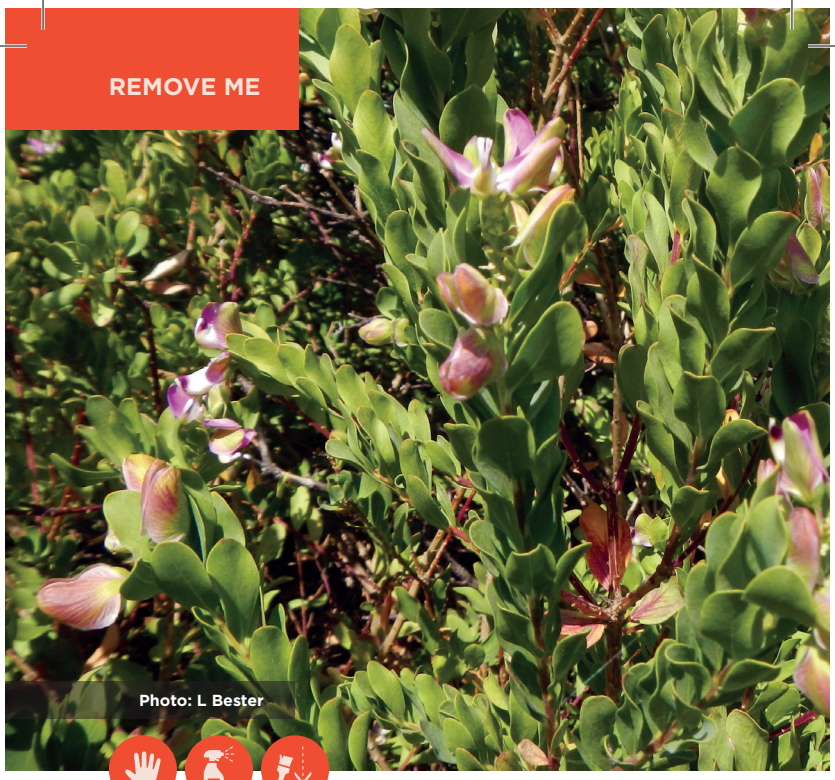

Photo: L Bester

Polygala/Myrtle-leaf Milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia

Description: This erect, spreading shrub is native to South Africa and has become a highly invasive weed in southern Australia, particularly in coastal areas where it forms dense thickets. It has a high tolerance of salty air and direct sunlight, as well as full shade, growing to 3m high. It flowers most of the year, particularly from late winter to early spring.

How it spreads: Each fruit contains two seeds, which are readily dispersed by birds, ants, other animals, water, towels, clothes, machinery, surfboards, wind, and dumped garden waste. It also spreads via people sharing or selling it. It often germinates in autumn, though it can happen at any stage with enough moisture, and it is not hindered by heavy shade.

How to control it: Remove seedlings by hand, ensuring that all seed is bagged for disposal where possible. For larger plants, cut the stem close to the ground and immediately apply Glyphosate. Foliar spray is also effective in areas where native vegetation is absent. Several years of follow up is required to deal with the soil-stored seed germinating.

Austral Indigo

Indigofera australis

Form: Shrub
Size: 1-2m x 1-2m
Growing conditions: Well-drained soil. Full sun to full shade. Tolerates light frosts. Highly adaptable.
Flowers: September to December.
General information: An attractive plant, producing masses of mauve flowers during spring. Useful in understorey plantings. Prune to increase bushiness and maintain vigour.

Saw Banksia

Banksia serrata

Form: Shrub, tree
Size: Up 16m high
Growing conditions: Prefers well-drained, sandy, low-nutrient soils in full sun. Summer watering aids growth.
Flowers: Mostly January to June.
General information: It can take several years to flower. If grown from cuttings, it takes about two years. Attracts native animals.

Large-leaf Bush-pea

Pultenaea daphnoides

Form: Shrub
Size: 1-3m x 0.5-2m
Growing conditions: Well-drained soils. Will tolerate drier soils once established but benefits from extra moisture when in full sun. Full sun to full shade.
Flowers: August to November.
General information: Thrives when planted beneath established trees. Prune when young.

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Photos: L Bester

Prickly Pear

Opuntia spp.

Description: This large, non-native plant can form dense infestations, restricting the movement of people and animals, and crowding out native vegetation. This leads to a reduction of food and habitat for native animals. Many species have been introduced into Australia and the majority are highly invasive. Their spines can injure people and animals and, in some cases, they can kill wildlife. They are a common host plant for fruit flies, which are one of the world's most destructive horticultural pests, and they also attract other introduced pests, such as foxes and rabbits.

How they spread: Regrowth can occur from stems, flowers and young fruit. The copious amounts of long-lived seeds and plant parts are largely spread by birds and other animals, but also water, wind, vehicles and dumped garden waste. People and nurseries still share and sell it.

How to control them: Dig up small plants wearing protective clothing. Spraying can work well by drenching actively growing plants in herbicide. Follow up is essential.

Prickly Moses

Acacia verticillata

Form: Shrub

Size: 2-6m x 3-5m

Growing conditions: Tolerates moist soils, including alkaline soils. Hardy plant that can withstand periods of waterlogging, and drier conditions during summer. Semi-shade.

Flowers: June to December.

General information: An excellent habitat plant for small birds. Prune to encourage bushiness.

Tree Everlasting

Ozothamnus ferrugineus

Form: Shrub

Size: 2-4m x 2-4m

Growing conditions: Moist to well-drained soils in full sun to semi-shade. Frost tolerant.

Flowers: November to February.

General information: A common and widespread plant in moist areas. Will readily colonise disturbed areas.

Prickly Tea-tree

Leptospermum continentale

Form: Shrub

Size: 1-4m x 1-2m

Growing conditions: Well-drained to moist sandy and light clay soils in full sun or semi-shade. Tolerates frost and snow.

Flowers: October to March.

General information: A great plant for bordering water features. Pruning helps to increase bushiness. A great habitat plant for native birds

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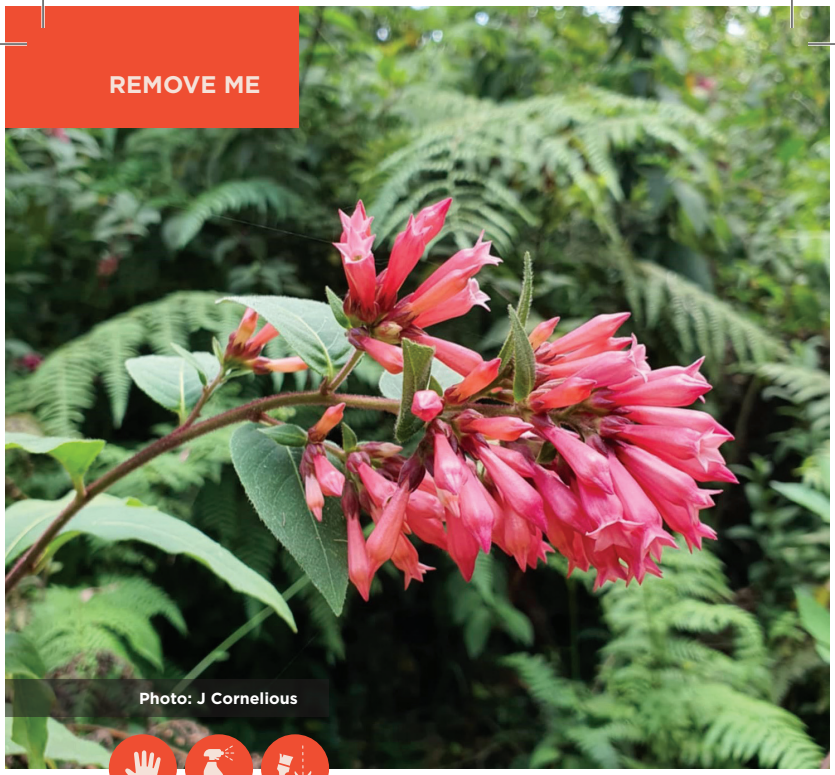

Photo: J Cornelious

Red Cestrum

Cestrum elegans

Description: This medium-sized shrub is native to Mexico. It is a highly invasive weed that occurs in cool, moist areas, often within bushland, out-competing the native vegetation. Its leaves are large and dark green, with an unpleasant smell when crushed. It flowers June to November.

How it spreads: In late summer or early autumn, it produces large amounts of dark purple berries that are eaten by birds and spread via droppings. The seeds also spread via wind, water, soil, other animals, people, machinery, and dumped garden waste. Dense thickets form via plant suckers. People sell/share it, and some nurseries still sell it, despite the damage it causes.

How to control it: June to January is a good time to carry out control works. Hand removal is a good option for small seedlings. Cut and paint larger infestations, or carefully spray the entire plant with an appropriate herbicide. Cut branches must be disposed of as they will regrow if left on the ground.

Showy Parrot-pea

Dillwynia sericea

Form: Small shrub

Size: 0.6m-1.5m x 0.5-1.5m

Growing conditions: Very adaptable. Grows in moist to dry soils, and can tolerate extended dry periods once established. Full sun to semi-shade. Frost tolerant.

Flowers: August to December.

General information: Produces masses of flowers. Stunning when planted in groups of 3 or more. Can be used to create a low screen or as a container plant. Prune after flowering.


Photo: M Dell

Showy Bossiaea

Bossiaea cinerea

Form: Small shrub

Size: 1-2m x 1-2m

Growing conditions: It prefers well-drained soils and partial shade, though it can tolerate full-sun positions. Able to withstand salty and dry conditions.

Flowers: August to November.

General information: A beautiful multi-branched, erect or spreading shrub. Attracts a number of native animals, including butterflies.


Photo: M Dell

Woolly Grevillea

Grevillea lanigera

Form: Prostrate to erect shrub

Size: 1.5m x 1.5-2m

Growing conditions: Grows in a range of different climate and soil conditions. Dry, well-drained soils. Full sun to semi-shade. Drought resistant.

Flowers: All year, but mainly from July to December.

General information: A great plant for attracting native birds and other native animals to your garden.


Photo: M Dell

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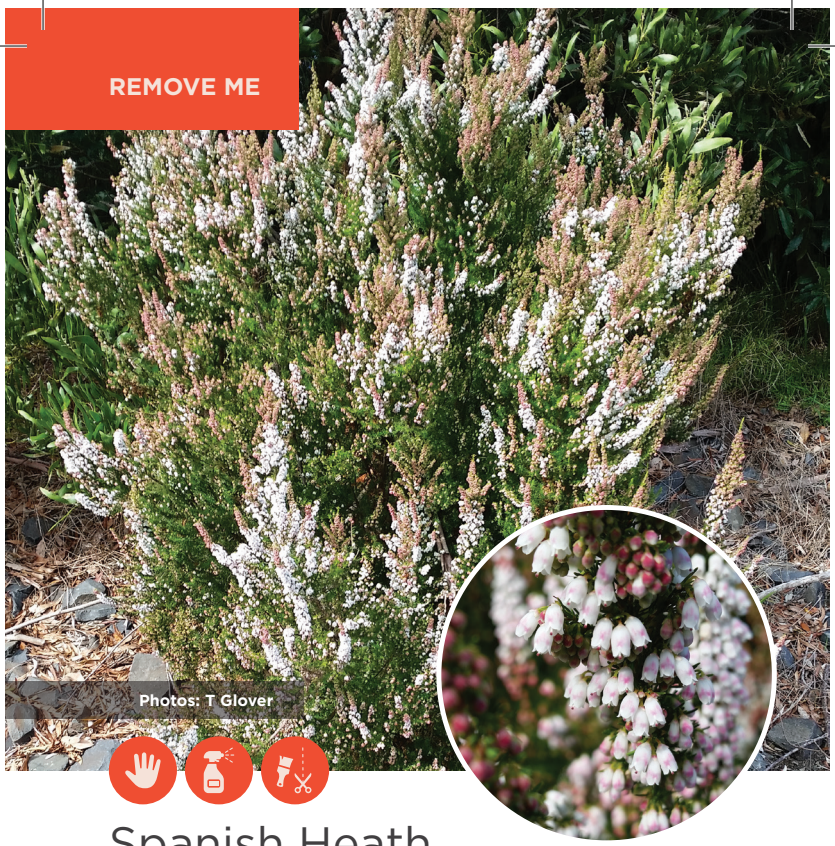

Photos: T Glover

Spanish Heath

Erica lusitanica

Description: This upright, long-lived woody shrub is native to south-western Europe, and is sometimes mistaken for our indigenous Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*). It is a highly invasive weed of the wetter, temperate regions of Australia, where it infests a range of different habitats, crowding out native vegetation and preventing regrowth. It grows to 2m high and flowers largely during winter and early spring.

How it spreads: Spanish Heath produces massive amounts of small seed, which are readily dispersed by birds, ants, other animals, water, clothes, vehicles, machinery, wind, soil, and dumped garden waste. It also spreads via the nursery trade. The sale of Spanish Heath is prohibited in Tasmania and Western Australia.

How to control it: It's best to remove Spanish Heath between March and August while it's flowering (June to September). Pull up seedlings by hand, or by using a mattock. Make sure to remove all roots, as they will reshoot. For larger plants, cut close to the ground and immediately apply Glyphosate. Foliar spray for smaller plants is also effective in non-sensitive areas.

Prickly Geebung

Persoonia juniperina

Form: Small shrub

Size: 0.3-2m x 0.6-0.8m

Growing conditions: Well-drained soils. Full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates frost.

Flowers: December to March.

General information: A good habitat plant, providing shelter and food for native animals; particularly birds that shelter amongst the prickly leaves for protection.


Photo: M Dell

Woolly Tea-tree

Leptospermum lanigerum

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 2-6m x 1-3m

Growing conditions: Moist to wet soils. Full sun, semi-shade. Frost and snow tolerant.

Flowers: September to January.

General information: Suitable for swampy areas and waterways. Useful as a screening plant. Can be pruned to encourage dense growth. Produces masses of small, white flowers in spring/summer that provide nectar for butterflies and attract native birds.

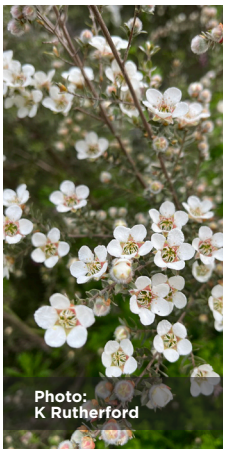
Photo:
K Rutherford

Narrow-leaf/Slender Bitter-pea

Daviesia leptophylla

Form: Medium shrub.

Size: 1-2m x 1-2m.

Growing conditions: Well-drained, rocky soils. Full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates moderate frosts. Drought resistant.

Flowers: September to January.

General information: An attractive plant when in flower. Plants in groups under under tree canopy.


Photo: M Dell

REMOVE ME

Photos: L Bester

Sweet Pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum — Australian native plant

Description: This plant is native to Victoria but has become highly invasive outside its natural range. Sweet Pittosporum develops a dense canopy that shades the ground beneath, preventing other plants from establishing. It significantly reduces the floristic diversity of invaded sites and is known to negatively affect bird and lizard populations. It grows high in a wide range of soil and light conditions. Flowering occurs mostly from late winter to late spring.

How it spreads: Sweet Pittosporum reproduces by seeds. The sticky fruit is consumed and spread by birds, possums and, occasionally, foxes. Dumped garden waste and contaminated soil is also a contributor to its spread. Plants may also be sold in nurseries.

How to control it: Control should take place between late winter and summer. Pull up seedlings by hand, or by using a mattock, ensuring that all roots are removed to avoid them reshooting. For trees with trunks smaller than 50mm in diameter, cut close to the ground and immediately apply Glyphosate. Frilling, and drilling and filling are also effective.

Blanket Leaf

Bedfordia arborescens

Form: Understorey tree or large shrub
Size: 3-7m x 2-4m
Growing conditions: Deep, moist, well-drained soils in partial shade. Tolerates frost and snow.
Flowers: October to January.
General information: This plant is best grown beneath established trees in moist sites, where it is protected from the sun. Use mulch to keep roots cool. Leaves have thick, soft hairs on underside.


Photos: M Dell

Gippsland Manna Gum

Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. *pryoriana*

Form: Canopy tree
Size: 8-16m x 5-12m
Growing conditions: Well-drained, sandy soils in full sun.
Flowers: March to May.
General information: This species is endemic to Victoria (doesn't grow anywhere else in the world). Its leaves are an important food source for koalas. Its pollen and nectar are food sources for native birds and bats. Suitable for sandy locations.


Photo: M Dell
Inset: L Norden

Sticky Hop-bush

Dodonaea viscosa

Form: Shrub
Size: 1-3m x 1-3m
Growing conditions: It prefers sheltered positions with moist, well-drained soils in full sun. Frost sensitive. Tolerates long, dry periods.
Flowers: Mostly September to February.
General information: A hardy shrub. Can be pruned to create bushiness. These plants provide food and shelter for many native animals, particularly birds.


Photo: L Bester

REMOVE ME

Photos: C Boase

Tree Tobacco

Solanum mauritianum

Description: This woody shrub, or small tree, is native to South America and is an invasive weed in parts of Australia and elsewhere. It's able to flower all year, grows quickly to 4m high, and lives for up to 30 years. It forms dense stands that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants. The whole plant is poisonous to many organisms, including humans.

How it spreads: Each plant produces up to 200,000 seeds annually. Seeds are consumed and spread by birds and flying foxes. Seeds spread by wind and water, dumped garden waste, soil, vehicles, animals and machinery. Pieces of stem can take root and regrow.

How to control it: Pull up small plants by hand, ensuring that all roots are removed to avoid them reshooting. For larger trees, cut stem close to the ground and immediately apply Glyphosate. Foliar spraying with an appropriate herbicide has proven to be effective in areas where off-target damage can be avoided. Frilling, and drilling and filling is also effective.

Snowy Daisy-bush

Olearia lirata

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 2-5m x 1.5m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils. Full sun to semi-shade. Tolerates light snow and frost.

Flowers: September to December.

General information: Produces large numbers of white daisies making it a very attractive garden plant. Pruning is beneficial after flowering. Food plant for caterpillars.


Photo: M Dell

Twiggy Daisy-bush

Olearia ramulosa

Form: Shrub

Size: 0.5-2m x 1-1.5m

Growing conditions: Well-drained soils. Semi-shade.

Flowers: October to May.

General information: Produces masses of small, white, daisy flowers, making it an attractive garden plant. Plant under existing vegetation. Prune to create bushiness.


Photo: M Dell

Smooth Pomaderris

Pomaderris elliptica var. elliptica

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 1-4m x 1-3m

Growing conditions: Moist, well-drained soils in partial shade. Tolerates light frost.

Flowers: September to October.

General information: A good screening plant. Responds well to hard pruning. Its flowers attract many pollinators such as native butterflies. Produces large clusters of yellow flowers that are held above smooth, dark green foliage.


Photo: M Dell

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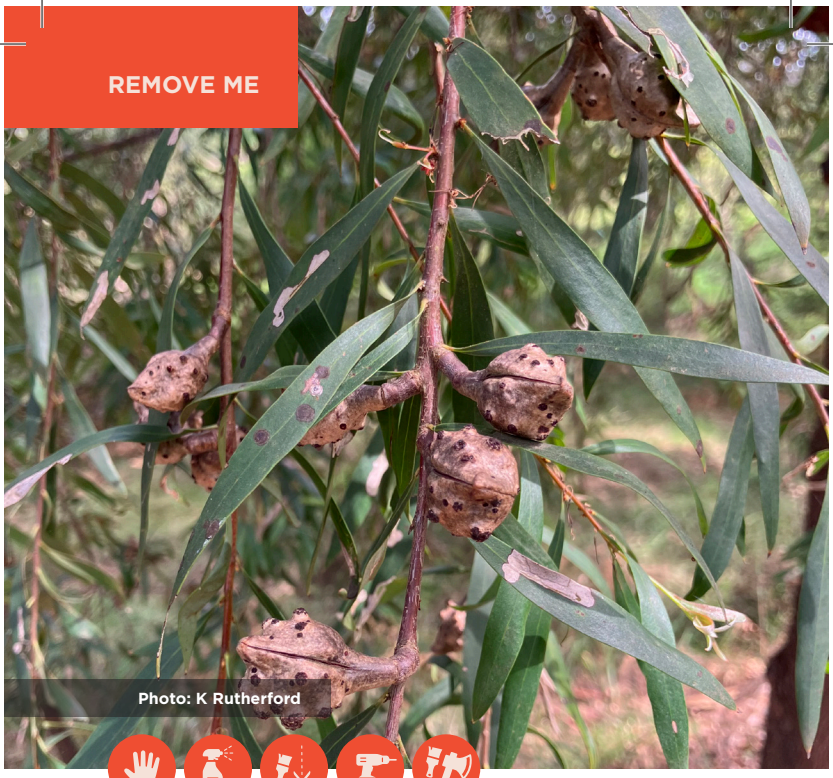

Photo: K Rutherford

Willow-leafed Hakea

Hakea salicifolia subsp. salicifolia — Australian native plant

Description: This small tree, to 6m high, grows naturally in parts of south-eastern Queensland and eastern New South Wales, but has become highly invasive elsewhere, particularly Victoria. It readily takes over areas of native vegetation, suppressing their growth. After flowering (August to November), it produces many woody seed capsules that are covered in distinctive warts. This is a long-lived species that tolerates harsh conditions.

How it spreads: Each plant produces thousands of seeds annually, which regenerate prolifically after fire. The seeds are dispersed by water, animals, dumped garden waste and soil. It's also readily found in many nurseries.

How to control it: Pull up small plants by hand at any stage of the year. For larger trees, cut stem close to the ground (autumn-winter) and immediately apply Glyphosate. Autumn is an appropriate time to frill, or drill and fill stems, or to foliar spray small plants in areas where off-target damage can be avoided. Follow up is essential.

Yellow Hakea

Hakea nodosa

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 1-3m x 1-2m

Growing conditions: Dry or moist conditions. Will tolerate poor drainage, particularly around swamps, ponds and bogs. Frost tolerant. Full sun to full shade.

Flowers: April to August.

General information: Fast-growing, useful as a screen. Responds well to pruning. Provides habitat and food for native birds.


Photo: M Dell

Bushy Needlewood

Hakea decurrens

Form: Medium shrub

Size: 0.8-4m x 1-3m

Growing conditions: Light to heavy, moist to dry, well-drained soils in partial shade. Tolerates frost, full sun, and drought conditions, to some extent.

Flowers: June to August.

General information: Produces attractive flowers providing food for birds and nectar for butterflies. Provides habitat for native birds.

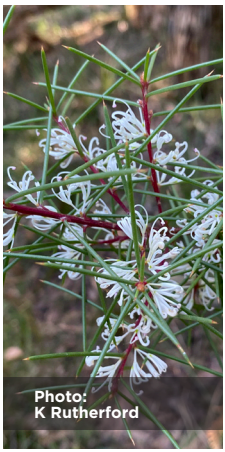
Photo:
K Rutherford

Black Sheoak

Allocasuarina littoralis

Form: Understorey tree or large shrub

Size: 4-8m x 2-5m

Growing conditions: Well-drained clay and rocky soils in full sun or partial shade. Tolerates light frosts.

Flowers: March to June.

General information: This middle storey plant can be used as a windbreak. The fruit attracts larger birds such as parrots and cockatoos. Good for caterpillars.


Photo:
K Rutherford

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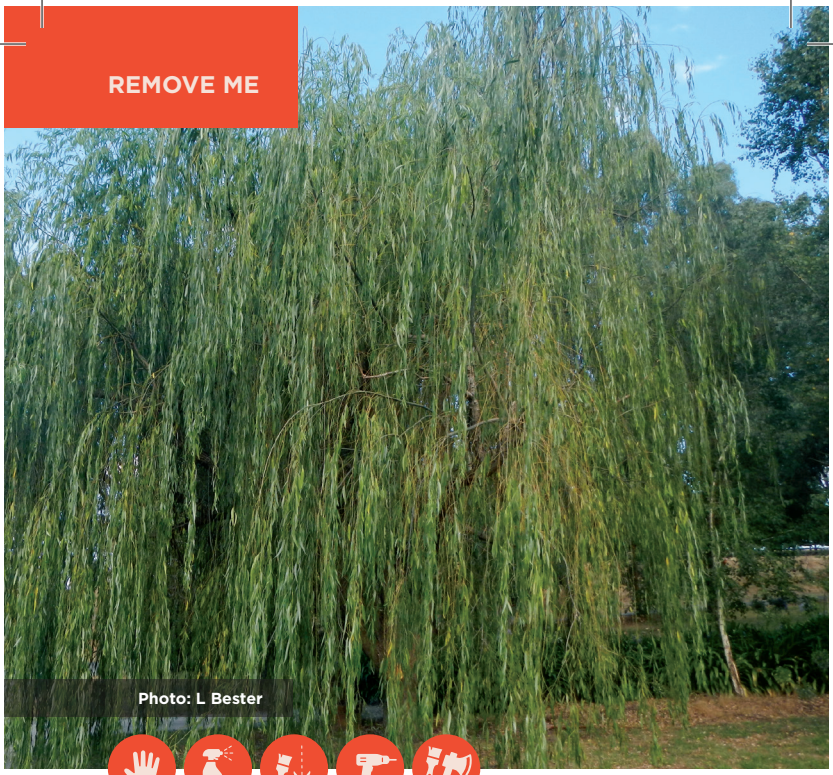

Photo: L Bester

Willows

Salix spp.

Description: Willow species range from shrubs to large trees, and they are all introduced, invasive species in Australia. They tolerate harsh conditions and form dense thickets, causing significant damage to native vegetation. They were traditionally used in wet areas to absorb water, but have since been found to cause blockages, flooding, structural changes to waterways and damage to infrastructure.

How they spread: Willows produce large numbers of short-lived, fast-growing seeds, annually. The seeds are readily dispersed by wind, water, animals, dumped garden waste, soil, vehicles and machinery. Willow roots produce suckers, and regrowth can occur from parts of roots and stems.

How to control them: Cut and paint small plants, and dispose of the cut sections. For larger plants, it's best to poison them while standing, to avoid regrowth from branches touching the ground. Do this by frilling, or drilling and filling. Spraying is an option for smaller plants in non-sensitive areas.

Swamp Paperbark

Melaleuca ericifolia

Form: Understorey tree or large shrub

Size: 2-9m x 3m

Growing conditions: Moist to wet swampy conditions in full sun to partial shade. Tolerates frost.

Flowers: October to November.

General information: A thicket-forming plant, which is good for screening. It provides food and habitat for many native animals including butterflies, bats, insects and birds such as parrots.


Photo: M Dell

Broad-leaved Peppermint

Eucalyptus dives

Form: Tree.

Size: 8-25m x 6-15m

Growing conditions: Well-drained, poor, shallow soils in sites that are relatively dry. Full sun to partial shade. Tolerates light frost.

Flowers: September to December.

General information: A great shade tree, which can also be used as a wind break. It provides food and habitat for native animals.


Photo: L Bester

Black Sheoak

Allocasuarina littoralis

Form: Understorey tree or large shrub

Size: 4-8m x 2-5m

Growing conditions: Well-drained clay and rocky soils in full sun or partial shade. Tolerates light frosts.

Flowers: March to June.

General information: This middle storey plant can be used as a windbreak. The fruit attracts larger birds such as parrots and cockatoos. Good for caterpillars.

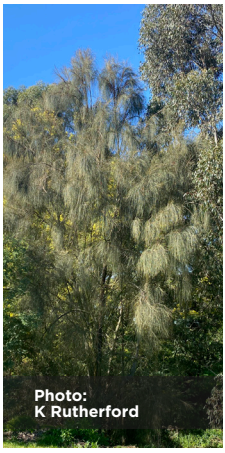
Photo:
K Rutherford

Plant nurseries

The following list, of nurseries under 100km from Morwell, is not exhaustive. The details are correct at the time of publication. Please read the information provided carefully, and phone or check websites for times and visiting requirements.

Habitat Creations
1800 4 HABITAT (1800 44 22 48)
Specialises in indigenous plants. Orders can be placed by both industry and private landholders, via website or email: **nursery@habitatcreations.com.au**
Retail by appointment only.
Pick up address only: 2/11 Old Sale Road, Moe.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 21.6 km
www.habitatcreations.com.au

Glengarry Plant Farm
0419 500 471
Open to the public by appointment only; please call before attending. A large range of indigenous plants.
415 Glengarry North Road, Glengarry.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 28.6 km
www.glengarryplantfarm.com.au

Strzelecki Plant Farm
(03) 5668 7209
Wholesale, but can do orders for home gardeners, too. Ideally orders should be placed in spring.
Strictly by appointment only. Allambee Reserve.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 50.0 km

Grand Ridge Propagation Nursery
0419 900 176
Grows 100+ species of indigenous seedlings. Order online.
Email: **grandridgenursery@bigpond.com**
Open by appointment: Seaview.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 52 km
www.grandridgenursery.com
www.facebook.com/grandridgenursery

Wildtech Plants
(03) 5148 2635
Wholesale supplier of Australian natives. Retail sales online only. Place order online, call, or email:
sales@wildtechnursery.com.au
Strictly by appointment only, no retail.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 59.7 km
www.wildtechnursery.com.au

Woolenook Native Plant Nursery
(03) 5147 1897
Grows natives (including bush tucker plants), vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, and more.
Open 7 days. **woolenook@bigpond.com**
682 Stratford Road, Maffra.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 71.6 km
www.facebook.com/Woolenook

Yarram Landcare Community Nursery, 'The Growers of Change'
0417 536 873
Grows native tubestock from locally-collected seed. Open every Tuesday (except public holidays) 10am to 12 noon, and other days by appointment.
Yarram Recreation Reserve, Corner Church and Livingston Roads, Yarram.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 72 km

Blue Gum Forest Nursery
0408 595 450
Retail and wholesale. An extensive range of indigenous trees for both landholders and Landcare groups. Open weekdays 10am to 4pm and weekends 12 noon to 4pm
285 Korumburra-Warragul Road, Korumburra.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 80.3 km
www.bluegumforestnursery.com.au

Melaleuca Nursery
(03) 5674 1014
A large range of indigenous plants. Order online or visit the nursery: 9am to 5pm. Closed Sundays.
50 Pearsalls Road, Inverloch.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 89.5 km
www.melaleucanursery.com.au

Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery
(03) 5947 7871
A large range of indigenous plant stock. Open Fridays 9am to 12 noon. Orders must be for over 100 plants and must be placed via email: **nursery@cecinc.net.au**
Deep Creek Reserve, 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 94.8 km
www.cecinc.net.au/cec-nursery

Wonthaggi Seedbank & Nursery
orders@wsbn.org.au
Supplies indigenous plants to property owners, community groups and agencies. Strictly by appointment only.
State Coal Mine, Garden Street, Wonthaggi.
Approximate distance to Morwell: 100.8 km
www.wsbn.org.au

Frog-friendly gardening

You may be surprised to know that you are likely to have native frogs visit your garden. Currently, frogs face many threats from climate change, Chytrid Fungus, pet and feral animal attacks, recreational activities (e.g. trail bike damage), fire, chemicals, and general habitat destruction. This, in addition to their consumption by native predators, makes it very difficult for frogs to survive. Luckily, you can help these amazing animals in their fight for survival!

Frogs need water to breed in as a part of their life cycle. Once their eggs hatch and the tadpoles develop into frogs in the water, they feed on algae and decaying plant matter until they mature. Once mature, they eat mostly insects.

Planning a frog pond

Identify a spot in your garden where you can build a frog pond, ideally in a quiet area where it's naturally wet but has some sunlight, shelter and shade, too. Shelter is very important and can consist of branches, logs, rocks and leaf litter placed around the pond. Rocks provide frogs a place to sun themselves.

Two thirds of the pond should always be shaded. Take care not to remove habitat of other animals in the process. You can use some artificial items such as bricks and pipes. If your pond has shallow and deeper areas, you may attract different frog species. You can buy a ready-made pond, or research how to create one yourself. It can be any width, as long as it retains water, though the bigger the better. It should include a section that is at least 50cm deep.

Frog pond plants

Planting locally native—indigenous plants provides native frogs with the food and habitat that they need to thrive. Incorporate a range of native grasses, sedges, dense groundcovers, small shrubs, reeds and ferns. Include plants that attract insects for the frogs to feed on. Planting sedges and rushes within your pond can provide shelter and help to keep the water both clean and oxygenated. Plant the lowest plants nearest to the pond.

The Frogs of Latrobe City Council

The following is a list of known local frogs that you might attract to your garden:

- Common Froglet, *Crinia signifera*
- Brown Tree Frog, *Litoria ewingii*
- Eastern Banjo Frog, *Limnodynastes dumerilii*
- Peron's Tree Frog, *Litoria peronii*
- Spotted Marsh Frog, *Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*
- Striped Marsh Frog, *Limnodynastes peronii*

Nine other frog species have been recorded in recent times, but so scarcely that they are likely to be lost from the region soon if nothing is done to help boost their populations. Another five species have not been recorded in over 11 years.

Frog pond tips

- Ensure that pets cannot access the pond.
- Do not place fish or turtles in the pond, as they will feed on the frogs, their eggs and the tadpoles.
- Avoid spraying chemicals or having other pollutants near the pond e.g. fertilisers and compost.
- Do not introduce frogs from elsewhere into your pond. If you create a pond, the local frogs will come.
- Ensure that there is water in the pond year-round.
- Make the edges of the pond gently sloping so that the frogs can easily get out when needed.
- Try to place the pond in a spot where the noise won't matter, as frogs can get noisy at times.
- Ensure the pond doesn't link up with a waterway.
- Ensure that the safety of children is considered.
- Avoid placing the pond near deciduous trees.

Illustration by Linda Bester: Growling Grass Frog, (*Litoria raniformis)*. This species was once found in the region.

Frog pond plants

The following is a list of indigenous plants that grow naturally in the Latrobe Council area, that may be purchased from native plant nurseries for frog ponds.

Groundcovers

- Creeping Boobialla, *Myoporum parvifolium*
- Cut-leaf Daisy, *Brachyscome multifida*
- Ivy-leaf Violet, *Viola hederacea*
- Kidneyweed, *Dichondra repens*
- Pennywort, *Centella cordifolia*
- Running Postman, *Kennedia prostrata*
- Showy Violet, *Viola betonicifolia*

Grasses/sedges/rushes

- Black-anther Flax-lily, *Dianella revoluta var. revoluta*
- Common Tussock-grass, *Poa labillardierei var. labillardierei*
- Lomandra, *Lomandra longifolia var. longifolia*
- Kangaroo Grass, *Themeda triandra*
- Red-fruit Saw-sedge, *Gahnia sieberiana*
- Tall Sedge, *Carex appressa*
- Tasman Flax-lily, *Dianella tasmanica*

Shrubs and herbs

- Blue Dampiera, *Dampiera stricta*
- Butterfly Flag, *Diplarrena moraea*
- Long Purple-flag, *Patersonia occidentalis var. occidentalis*
- Small-leaved Clematis, *Clematis microphylla*
- Swamp Paperbark, *Melaleuca ericifolia*
- Wedding Bush, *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*

Pond or border plants

- Angled Lobelia, *Lobelia anceps*
- Broom Spurge, *Amperea xiphoclada var. xiphoclada*
- Hollow Rush, *Juncus amabilis*
- Knobby Club-rush, *Ficinia nodosa*
- Loose-flower Rush, *Juncus pauciflorus*
- Running Marsh-flower, *Ornduffia reniformis*
- Small River Buttercup, *Ranunculus amphitrichus*

Further resources

Advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria
Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.
https://tinyurl.com/yw92rm2u

Agriculture Victoria
For consolidated lists of Victoria's declared noxious weeds and pest animals, and information on identification and eradication:
www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds

Australian Native Plant Society (Australia)
Promotes growing and conserving Australian native plants, and related education. Membership is available:
www.anpsa.org.au

Australian Plants Society (Victoria)
Promotes growing and conserving Australian native plants, in gardens, community areas and their original environments:
www.apsvic.org.au

Invasive Species Council
For more information about invasive species:
www.invasives.org.au

Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
Takes part in environmental activities and encourages farming sustainability within the Latrobe Landcare community:
www.lcln.com.au

VicFlora
A comprehensive guide to Victoria's wild plants, including identification keys and distribution information:
vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au

Weedbusters, New Zealand
Weed fact sheets for many of the weeds we have in our region:
www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list

Weeds Australia
Provides weed information through technical reports, databases and videos, including 'Weeds of National Significance':
www.weeds.org.au/resources

Weeds of Australia
Fact sheets on Australian weeds:
https://tinyurl.com/d7y2uc3d

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Illustration by Linda Bester: Silver-leaf or Silver-leaved Mountain Gum (*Eucalyptus pulverulenta*)
Reference photo: Daniel Gilmore.

Need funding?

Check Council's Community Grants and Sponsorships for available funding.

www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/CommunityGrants

LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Phone 1300 367 700
Post PO Box 264. Morwell 3840
Email latrobe@latrobe.vic.gov.au
www.latrobe.vic.gov.au