Common Weeds of Gippsland

Weed Identification Guide



WELLINGTON SHIRE

WEEDSFORTREES



This book has been made possible through the combined efforts of your local Councils, the Department of Primary Industry, and Landcare. They are pleased to present this Weed Identification booklet to the community in an effort to reduce and control the impact of weeds in our environment.







What is a weed?

A weed is a plant that establishes itself outside its normal environment.

Types of weeds

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

These are plants which threaten the values of natural ecosystems, can invade native plant communities and outcompete them, resulting in reduction of plant diversity and loss of habitat for animals and birds.

AGRICULTURAL WEEDS

Agricultural weeds threaten sustainable productivity; some are toxic to both humans and stock.

DECLARED NOXIOUS WEEDS

In Victoria these are plants which have been proclaimed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, which requires the Landholder to control or eradicate these weeds. They can be categorised as follows:

1. State Prohibited

To be eradicated from within Victoria or excluded from the State, e.g. water hyacinth. The cost of eradication is borne by the government.

2. Regionally Prohibited

Are not widely distributed, but are capable of spreading further, e.g. cape tulip. It is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from a region.

3. Regionally Controlled

Are widespread and established in a region, e.g. blackberries and ragwort. It is the responsibility of the Landowner to prevent the growth and spread of these weeds on their land and on a roadside that adjoins the Landowner's land, except declared main roads & freeways.

The above groups are all NOXIOUS.



Disposal of garden rubbish

When disposing of garden rubbish or plant cuttings, it is best to compost or burn the plant material. If this is not possible, remove it to a landfill site and have it buried.

DO NOT DUMP YOUR RUBBISH ON THE ROADSIDE OR IN THE BUSH!

Control

The first step is to correctly identify the weed and the category that it belongs in. Then develop a management program for containment or eradication which:

- Provides a long-term approach.
- May use more than one control method (integrated).
- Emphasises strategic rather than continual use of farm chemicals.
- Minimises costs.
- Minimises environmental damage.
- Involves working with the neighbours.

Control methods include non-chemical and chemical. When using chemical methods, keep in mind:

- Some chemical products will require an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit.
- 2. Always read the label on the product and follow the directions on usage and handling.
- 3. Always wear protective clothing and use clean equipment.
- Chemicals should be used on weeds which appear on the product label.
- Always freshly mix the amount to do the job, most chemicals will lose their effectiveness within 24 hours.
- Apply herbicides at the appropriate rate as specified on the label and follow all safety precautions.
- 7. Spray when plants are actively growing.
- Do not spray in high temperatures or if rain is forecast within 24 hours
- **8.** Beware of spray drift reaching non-target species. Do not spray in strong winds or when wind is blowing towards sensitive areas or crops.
- 10. If in doubt, contact your local Department of Primary Industries office, local council or Landcare weed coordinator.



Methods of control

CHEMICAL

USE CHEMICAL CONTROL ONLY IF NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL IS IMPRACTICAL.

Reminder – If chemical control is necessary near drainage lines or streams, use extreme caution as the effects on aquatic life can be devastating even in minute amounts. Always seek expert advice.



Cut & Paint

Suitable for many woody weeds and some climbing creepers. The plant is cut off close to the ground and herbicide applied immediately to the cut surface. A staggered pruning technique may be used for larger trees with herbicide applied at the last cut.



Drill & Frill

Chips or frills are made into the trunk of a woody weed close to the base of the trunk with an axe or tomahawk with herbicide applied immediately. Cuts to penetrate through the hard outer bark and just into the soft bark. Alternately, an angled hole can be drilled into the sapwood just below the bark and herbicide applied immediately. Refer to the chemical label.



Scrape & Paint

A variation of cut and paint that is more appropriate for treating large woody, vine-like weeds. The outside bark of a vine is removed with a knife and the exposed inner tissue immediately painted with herbicide.



Foliar Spray

An appropriate herbicide is applied as fine droplets to the surface of foliage using a knapsack or spray unit.

Methods of control

NON CHEMICAL

Prevention

Control small weed infestations before they spread. Remove weeds before they seed.



Hand Pulling

Very effective in small areas or with isolated plants. Some plants will regenerate unless all root material is removed.



Slashing or mowing

May be used to delay seed production until a more permanent means of control can be undertaken. Care must be taken as weeds can easily be spread.



Mechanical - Use of heavy machinery

Suitable for initial removal of large infestations of woody weeds. Often followed by other forms of control. Caution: Some weeds are spread through movement of contaminated machinery, ensure machinery is clean before shifting to a fresh site.



Solarisation

A technique that blocks light and uses the heat from the sun to "cook" weeds. Usually involves a plastic sheet to cover the area, sealed tight by burying the edges and left in place for four weeks or more.



Mulching / Smothering

Involves placing a thick layer of material on the ground surface through which weeds struggle to penetrate.



Pasture Improvement / Revegetation

Plant competition is an important means of weed control. In a pasture situation, increasing competition through good grazing management and by addressing soil fertility will help to control many weeds. Often weed control programs should include revegetation with suitable, local native plants.



Status: Regionally prohibited

Family: Poaceae Origin: Southern Africa

Description: Tussock forming perennial grass

Fruit/Seeds: Produces large quantities of seed summer to autumn. Dispersal: Reproduces by seed. Seed is dispersed by water, wind animals, vehicles, slashing, on clothing and in soil.

Invades: Open disturbed conditions, roadsides, neglected areas,

poor quality pastures.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Liliaceae **Origin:** South Africa **Description**: A stout, fleshy-rooted perennial which bears a spherical cluster of sky-blue flowers in summer on 1 m high stalks.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds form after flowering.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, wind, water, carried on boots and clothing or vegetatively from dumping of garden rubbish.

Invades: Bushland, coastal areas, roadsides.





Status: State prohibited

Family: Amaranthaceae **Origin**: South America **Description**: Lance-shaped, dark green, opposite leaves growing on a soft, hollow stem. White flowers mid spring-autumn.

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by stolons.

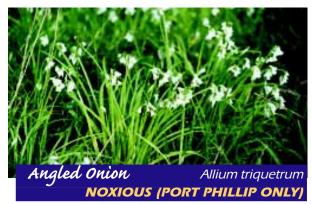
Dispersal: Stolons are dispersed by water movement, flood and

wave action, wind, animals, machinery and in soil.

Invades: is a highly aggressive, invasive species capable of spreading in waterways or seasonally moist conditions.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled (Port Phillip Region only)

Family: Liliaceae **Origin**: Mediterranean region **Description:** White, bell-like flowers in winter and spring; similar to snowdrop but with a strong onion smell.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds in summer.

Dispersal: Spreads mainly vegetatively from bulbs eq. through

grading of roadsides.

Invades: Water courses, roadsides, waste areas, coastal areas.









Origin: North and South America. **Family**: Boraginaceae Description: Free-standing, winter growing herb 20 to 70 cm high covered with long and short hairs. Yellow to orange trumpet shaped flowers August to November.

Fruit/Seeds: The fruit consists of a burr surrounding four nutlets, each containing a single seed. A plant may produce up to 1600 seeds.

Dispersal: Seed is effectively spread on farm equipment, in contaminated fodder and by birds and animals.

Invades: An agricultural weed, has potential to cover a wide range of soil types and climates. Competes strongly with cereal crops.





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Solonaceae

Description: An erect shrub to 1m with spines and prickles on the branches, leaves and calyces. Purple to white flowers winter spring.

Fruit/Seeds: Globular berries, green to yellow when ripe.

Poisonous.

Dispersal: By seed - birds, foxes etc. Invades: Bushland, roadsides, waste areas. Control Measures:



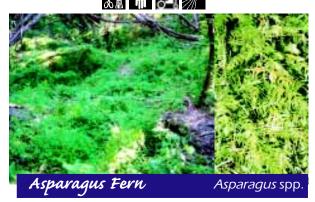


Status: Environmental weed

Family: Araceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description**: A large perennial herb with large fleshy green leaves. Garden escapee. All parts of the plant are **poisonous** if eaten. Fruit/Seeds: White trumpet shaped flowers with a yellow flower spike followed by a seed head from July to November.

Dispersal: Spread by underground rhizomes. Seed spread by

birds, foxes and dumped garden prunings. **Invades:** Moist areas and along watercourses. Control Measures:



Environmental weed

Family: Liliaceae **Origin:** South Africa **Description**: Highly invasive climbing plant with small green leaves along a twining stem.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers in spring develop into orange berries.

Dispersal: By seeds or rhizomes, commonly spread by birds or from dumped garden refuse.

Invades: The ground-layer and lower canopy of bushland particularly in sandy areas. Will grow in shaded areas.





Family: Passsifloraceae **Origin:** Andean South America **Description:** A fast-growing woody-stemmed tendril climber which forms dense layered mats. Long tubed pink flowers in summer followed by edible fruit.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruiting is copious over autumn-winter.

Dispersal: Seed dispersed by birds or from dumped garden refuse. **Invades:** Damp or seasonally moist locations. Will grow in moderate shade but is prolific in sunny locations.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Asteraceae **Origin:** South Africa **Description:** Course annual weed, dark shiny divided leaves with whitish undersurface. Three yellow spines grow at the base of each leaf stalk.

Fruit/Seeds: Hairy ovoid fruit with numerous yellow-orange hooked spines.

Dispersal: Through burrs carried by animals, clothing, machinery, fodder and in soil.

Invades: Pastures, sale yards, stock yards, woollen mills.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Rosaceae **Origin:** Europe **Description:** An aggressive, prickly, trailing perennial plant which grows into dense thickets.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers late spring – summer followed by berries which change from green through red to black as they ripen. Dispersal: Reproduces from seed, root suckers and via tip rooting. Seeds are spread by birds and foxes.

Invades: Roadsides, along disturbed bushland margins, river banks, agricultural land and wastelands.

Control Measures:



Status: State prohibited

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe Description: An erect perennial herb with creeping roots and a rough, hairy stem growing to 1 m high. Introduced as an ornamental plant.

Fruit/Seeds: Reddish purple globe shaped flowers in summer, similar to a thistle. Seeds are brown with hairs attached.

Dispersal: By seed or vegetatively from root or stem fragments. Spread by slashers and road machinery.

Invades: A State prohibited weed only present in limited areas at Mirboo Nth and Neerim. Mainly along roadsides, can invade pasture and streamsides.





Family: Solanaceae Origin: Europe **Description**: An annual herb which varies widely in its growth form.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers in spring-summer, with green to black berries.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by birds and animals.

Invades: Waste places, areas of cultivation, and is a common coloniser where weeds such as blackberries have been sprayed and the area not rehabilitated with appropriate species.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Origin: Western Australia Family: Pittosporaceae Description: Evergreen, woody based, twining climber with attractive blue flowers. Smothers ground-flora, smaller shrubs and

Fruit/Seeds: Attractive blue flowers spring – summer followed by a sweet sticky green fruit.

Dispersal: A garden escapee with the fruit spread by birds and foxes.

Invades: Prefers lighter soils and is highly invasive in Victorian coastal woodlands





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Fabaceae **Origin:** South Africa **Description**: An erect perennial shrub, 2-4 m garden escapee. Fruit/Seeds: Mauve-blue pea shaped flowers with white centers flowers spring – early summer. Seeds in black pods 3-4 mm long. Dispersal: Seeds spread by birds, roadworks, slashing and soil disturbance.

Invades: Highly invasive in heathlands, shrublands, woodlands, coastal, drier forests, swamp edges and riparian areas. Will grow in a variety of soil types.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Apocynaceae **Origin:** Mediterranean region Description: An ornamental creeper which forms dense, intertwining low mats which can completely smother all ground

Fruit/Seeds: Lilac-blue flowers in spring-summer. Seeds contained in tapering follicles 2-5 cm long.

Dispersal: Primarily by stem rooting, often through disposal of garden refuse in the bush and along roadsides. Some reproduction from seed.

Invades: Fertile soils, primarily in damp shaded areas in forests, coastal areas, woodlands and along waterways, drainage lines and roadsides.





Status: Regionally controlled (Port Phillip) Regionally Prohibited (East & West Gippsland)

Family: Asteraceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description:** An erect perennial shrub to 3 m high with dull green paddle shaped leaves. Young leaves often covered in cottony down. Fruit/Seeds: Bright yellow daisy flowers in winter to summer, green berries in summer which turn into hard black seeds.

Dispersal: A heavy seeder, seeds spread by birds, animals and water.

Invades: Coastal habitats, dry forests.





Status: Regionally controlled

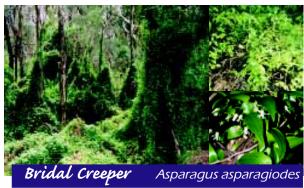
Family: Solanaceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description:** A large shrub to 3 m with small fleshy oval leaves and spikes along the branches. Plants provide an ideal harbour for rabbits and foxes.

Fruit/Seeds: White to mauve flowers which develop into small red berries.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by birds and foxes.

Invades: Was first introduced for hedgerows, occurs commonly on wastelands, agricultural land, roadsides and coastal areas.





Status: Environmental Weed

Family: Liliaceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description**: Deciduous, woody-based scrambling climber, aggressive and highly invasive, smothering ground flora, smaller shrubs and trees. Fruit/Seeds: Greenish-white flowers in spring followed by green to red berries.

Dispersal: Reproduces by seeds and rhizomes/tubers. Spread by birds and dumping of garden refuse. Seed viability approx. 90%. **Invades:** Most vigorous in lighter soils and shaded positions

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Fabaceae **Origin**: Europe, Mediteranean **Description**: Erect perennial shrub, clover shaped leaves with dense clusters of yellow pea flowers in spring and summer. **Fruit/Seeds:** Five to eight seeds in flat, silky pods which are ejected forcibly from the pods when ripe.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by birds, ants, stock, water, machinery,

slashing, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins and along roadsides & railway lines. Regenerates after fire.





Family: Fabaceae **Origin**: Europe, Mediterranean Description: Erect shrub to 2 m high with long dark green angular branches and small inconspicuous leaves. Large pea shaped flowers in Oct. to Nov.

Fruit/Seeds: Flat black seed pods are produced, each containing 6-16 seeds which are ejected forcibly when ripe. Parts of the plant, especially flowers and seeds are toxic.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by birds, ants, stock, water, machinery, slashing, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins, agricultural land and along roadsides & railway lines. Regenerates after fire.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled (Port Phillip & West Gippsland) Regionally prohibited (East Gippsland)

NOXIOUS

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Erect woody shrub, light green slender leaves, smooth above and silky-white below. Clusters of bright yellow pea-like flowers late spring – summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Two to three seeds in flattened silky pods. Seeds are ejected forcibly from the pods when ripe.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by birds, ants, stock, water, machinery, slashing, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins and along roadsides & railway lines. Regenerates after fire.

Control Methods:



Status: Regionally controlled - two-leaved

Regionally prohibited (East & West Gippsland) - one-leaf

Family: Iridacea **Origin:** South Africa **Description:** One-leaf Cape tulip has one stem 30 – 75 cm high and salmon pink or orange flowers. Two-leaved cape tulip has stems with a flower on each. Poisonous to stock.

Fruits/seeds: Numerous seeds produced in capsules. Underground corms are produced annually. Two-leaf cape tulip also reproduces by leaf cormils.

Dispersal: By underground corms, cormils and seeds dispersed by water, animals, machinery, wind, slashing and in soil.

Invades: Agricultural land, native grasslands, woodlands and heathlands.





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Mimosaceae **Origin**: Western Australia **Description**: A popular ornamental tree with dark-green fern-like leaves. Greenish-yellow bottlebrush-like flower spikes in late autumn-spring.

Fruits/seeds: Seeds in reddish-brown pods over summer. Dispersal: Seeds prolifically. Seed is dispersed by birds, ants, slashing, machinery, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Woodlands, forests, riparian environments, coastal areas.





Status: Agricultural weed

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Africa **Description:** A widespread annual herb with divided, spreading leaves and yellow, daisy like flowers spring-summer.

Fruits/seeds: Seeds covered in a pink, tangled woolly covering. Dispersal: Seeds spread by animals, wind and machinery. Invades: Bare areas in paddocks and waste places.

Control Measures:



Status: Environmental weed

Family: Rubiaceae **Origin**: Europe and Asia Description: An annual climbing herb with square stems covered with small prickles which give the plant a sticky feel.

Fruit/Seeds: Small white flowers in summer followed by a round sticky seed pod.

Dispersal: By the seed which readily sticks to clothing and animals. Invades: Gardens and roadsides in high rainfall areas.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe **Description:** A perrenial climber or large spreading shrub. 5-20 m

Fruit/Seeds: Has yellow florets which carry seed. Dispersal: Through wind-blown parachutes and birds. Invades: Cultivated areas, coastal areas and bushland.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Mimosaceae **Origin:** New South Wales **Description**: Small spreading tree commonly planted as an ornamental plant with profuse, golden, ball-shaped flowers in winter.

Fruits/Seeds: A prolific seed producer with seed remaining dormant in the ground for over 10 years.

Invades: Invades woodlands and forests in drier areas where rainfall exceeds 400 mm









Family: Rosaceae Origin: China **Description**: Popular evergreen garden shrub or small tree with green oval leaves and small white flowers in spring followed by orange-red berries.

Fruits/seeds: Large orange-red berries, potentially poisonous. **Dispersal:** Seeds dispersed by birds, foxes and in garden refuse. Will sucker if cut down.

Invades: Invasive in a range of natural habitats. Tolerates wet and dry conditions. Will grow in lightly shaded or sunny areas.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Fabaceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description**: A widely cultivated perennial vine with pink, purple or white pea shaped flowers in spring-summer.

Fruits/Seeds: Seeds are contained in pods and can be ejected many metres from the parent plant.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, in soil and garden refuse. Invades: Highly invasive in woodlands, heathlands and dune systems.





Status: Regionally controlled

Origin: Southern Europe, Western Asia **Family**: Apiaceae **Description**: An erect perennial plant to 2 m high with a strong aniseed smell when crushed. Small yellow flowers in clusters grouped in umbrella shapes.

Fruits/Seeds: 3-6 mm long yellow brown seeds.

Dispersal: Seeds are dispersed by water, wind, machinery, slashing and in soil.

Invades: A widespread weed of disturbed and degraded areas, especially along waterways, drainage lines and roadsides.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally prohibited

Family: Fabaceae Origin: Europe **Description:** A dense spiny shrub to 2-4 m which forms impenetrable thickets excluding all other vegetation and providing a harbour for rabbits.

Fruits/Seeds: Fragrant, bright yellow pea flowers occur in clusters from September to January followed by long, dark, hairy pods containing 2-6 seeds. Seed viability 2-5 years

Dispersal: Seeds are ejected forcibly from pods, spread by machinery, birds, animals, vehicles and in soil.

Invades: Disturbed agricultural land, degraded landscapes, coastal areas roadsides. Also woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas and forests.





Family: Rosaceae **Origin**: Europe **Description**: Erect deciduous small shrub to tree with thorny branches and small serrated bright green leaves. Once widely used for hedges.

Fruit/Seeds: White or pink flowers in spring followed by red berries in autumn.

Dispersal: Reproduces by seed which is dispersed by birds, foxes, possums, stock and water.

Invades: Invasive along creeks, rivers and roadsides.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Apiaceae **Origin**: Europe, Asia **Description**: Erect annual or biannual herb with ferny leaves and masses of small white flowers in an umbrella arrangement. Has an unpleasant smell when crushed. All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and animals.

Fruits/Seeds: Masses of small seeds produced after flowering. **Dispersal**: Spread by machinery, water and soil movement.

Invades: Roadsides, stream-sides and waste areas Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Aquifoliaceae Origin: Europe **Description**: Small ornamental tree with dark shiny leaves with prickly margins.

Fruits/Seeds: Small white fragrant flowers followed by red berries in summer, autumn and winter.

Dispersal: Seed spread mainly by birds.

Invades: Woodlands and forests with cool moist climates. Very

competitive in heavy shade.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Labiatae **Origin**: Asia, Europe **Description**: A whitish-downy perennial herb with small white flowers in groups next to the upper leaves on the stem. Flowering mainly in Spring.

Fruits/Seeds: Brown or black, ovoid or triangular, slightly roughened.

Dispersal: Seeds primarily dispersed by stock, foxes and rabbits, as the fruit readily attaches to wool, fur etc.

Invades: A weed of pastures and crops in Southern Australia where it invades poor pastures and waste spaces.











Origin: South Africa **Family**: Asteraceae **Description**: A highly invasive climbing plant which forms smothering curtains over smaller plants and trees.

Fruits/Seeds: Yellow daisy-like flowers in winter-early spring followed by seed with hairs attached.

Dispersal: Reproduces by seed and from stolons. Spreads by seed dispersed by wind, machinery, slashing and in garden refuse. Invades: High rainfall areas, occurring in dune systems, woodlands, forests, riparian areas, neglected areas and roadsides.





Status: Environmental weed

Origin: Europe Family: Araliaceae **Description**: A widely planted ornamental creeper with green sword shaped leaves. Trailing stems form dense smothering mats. Fruits/Seeds: Greenish-yellow flowers in autumn followed by black fruit.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, foxes, and possibly water. Stem fragments disposed of in garden refuse will also grow. Invades: Seasonally moist, shaded or sunny positions in wet forest, dry forest and coastal areas.





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Poaceae **Origin**: Eastern Africa Description: A coarse, matted perennial grass with long stout stolons and light green leaves. Can climb in loose mats over shrubs, fences etc. Used extensively as a summer growing pasture. **Fruit/Seeds:** Rarely flowers, reproduces readily from small pieces.

Dispersal: Many infestations are the result of garden dumpings and deliberate plantings for lawns and soil stabilization. Fragments

spread by machinery.

Invades: Bushland locations, grasslands, grassy woodlands, coastal areas, riparian areas, moist forests and roadsides.

Control Measures:











Status: Environmental weed

Family: Rubiaceae Origin: New Zealand **Description**: Erect perennial shrub with shiny, bright green oval shaped leaves. It is a hardy, adaptable plant which grows in shade and full sun.

Fruit/Seeds: Inconspicuous flowers followed by green-red berries. Dispersal: Reproduces by seed, which is spread by birds, foxes and possums.

Invades: A widely grown plant in coastal areas, commonly invades coastal bushland environments





Family: Iridaceae Origin: A horticultural hybrid Description: A popular garden plant with pale green sword shaped leaves and bright red flower spikes to 1 m over summer. The plant dies back to a bulb over autumn.

Fruits/Seeds: Reproduces from seeds, but primarily from corms. Dispersal: Spread by water, slashing, grading and in garden refuse.

Invades: An aggressive invader of moist fertile areas forming close stands crowding out other plants





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Convolvulaceae **Origin:** Tropical regions Description: Rampant climbing plant capable of smothering low growing vegetation, trees and shrubs. Tubular, blue trumpetshaped flowers in warmer weather.

Fruits/Seeds: Reproduces by seed and stolons.

Dispersal: Most outbreaks are spread by dumping of garden

refuse. Seed is dispersed by wind and water.

Invades: Favours sunny positions in moist locations. Invasions often commence in disturbed bushland margins, expanding as the canopy dies and light levels increase.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled (East Gippsland) Regionally prohibited (West Gippsland)

Family: Scrophulariaceae **Origin**: Europe, Asia **Description**: A stout biennial herb with erect stems and large rossette leaves. Numerous yellow flowers form along a rod-like structure. A garden escapee still found in cottage gardens.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced after flowering.

Dispersal: By seed, dumped garden refuse, road machinery, slashing.

Invades: Roadsides, railway lines, waste areas, degraded agricultural land.





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Scrophulariaceae Origin: Europe **Description**: Biennial erect herb to 1 m high. Has an erect flower stem arising from a rosette from which numerous yellow flowers develop.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced after flowering.

Dispersal: By seed through road machinery, grading, slashing. Invades: Roadsides, railway lines, waste areas and degraded agricultural land.





Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe and Siberia **Description**: A perennial plant with long slender stalks and white daisy flowers with yellow centers in spring-autumn.

Fruits/Seeds: Dark brown, grey or black flat and usually ribbed seeds are produced in summer.

Dispersal: By seed, spread by machinery especially slashing and animals.

Invades: Wet forest, grassy woodland, riparian, alpine vegetation, agricultural land and along roadsides.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Origin: South America Family: Haloragaceae **Description**: A highly invasive aquatic weed which grows partly submerged. Leaves above the surface are whorled and feathery in appearance.

Fruits/Seeds: Only female flowers produced in Australia, fertile seed not produced.

Dispersal: A popular aquarium plant, spread by dumping of fish tank water, spreads by stem fragments.

Invades: Shallow water bodies, creeks, dams and drains.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

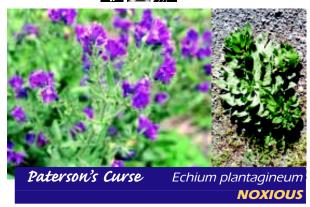
Family: Gramineae/Poaceae **Origin:** South America **Description:** Large tussocky perennial grass with white or pink feathery flowers in late summer.

Fruits/Seeds: As seeds fall, flowers appear white.

Dispersal: Seeds are spread by wind, machinery and dumping of garden refuse.

Invades: Open, sunny areas which have adequate moisture. Along streambanks, roadsides and waste places and native vegetation.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Boraginaceae **Origin**: Western Europe, Mediterranean **Description**: A major agricultural weed. An erect biennial herb to 1m with bluish-purple flowers in spring.

Fruits/Seeds: A prolific seeder with four nutlets surrounded by a persistant stiff calyx.

Dispersal: By seed, spread by contaminated fodder, machinery, vehicles, animals. Seed viability over 5 years.

Invades: Establishes large populations rapidly, especially on disturbed ground. Competes with pasture and establishes on the edge of bushland.

A priority weed through Gippsland.











Family: Pinaceae **Origin:** Northern Hemisphere **Description:** A tall, evergreen softwood tree to 40 m. Dark green needle-like leaves in dense clusters.

Fruits/Seeds: Large seed bearing cones are produced at the end of branches.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by wind and birds.

Invades: Pines reduce soil fertility, produce a dense leaf litter and shade out other species





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Polygalaceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description**: An erect rounded shrub 2-3 m high with purple and white pea- shaped flowers. Flowers all year with peak flowering time in spring-summer.

Fruits/Seeds: Fruits are heart-shaped capsules containing 2 seeds. **Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds, ants, water, in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: A highly invasive weed of coastal areas. Plants tolerate salty winds and will grow in sun and full shade forming dense thickets.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe **Description**: An erect biennial or perennial herb, leaves are dark green with a ragged edge. The plant grows from a rosette into a cabbage form then sends up an erect stem. Flowering occurs from October to March with yellow daisy-like flowers. Toxic to stock if eaten.

Fruits/Seeds: Each plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds. Dispersal: Seeds are spread by wind, water, vehicles, animals and clothing. Viability 8+ years.

Invades: Pastures in high rainfall areas, particularly on steep and neglected sites where control may be difficult. A priority weed throughout Gippsland.

Control Measures:



Status: State prohibited

Family: Salviniaceae Origin: Brazil **Description:** A free-floating freshwater aguatic fern, one of the worlds most serious aquatic weeds.

Fruit/Seeds: Plants are sterile and reproduce solely by vegetative means. **Dispersal:** Sold illegally as an aquarium and pond plant. Establishes from discarded aquarium and pond refuse. Physical disturbance disperses plants through waterbodies.

Invades: Still or slow moving fresh-water bodies. Dense mats exclude all other forms of vegetation, reduce oxygen and light levels and physically disrupt invertebrate, fish and bird habitat.









Status: Regionally prohibited

Origin: South America Family: Poaceae **Description**: A fine-leafed tussock forming perennial grass. Leaves are rounded and rough to touch. Plants are unpalatable to stock, infestations expand as more palatable grasses are eaten out.

Fruit/Seeds: Large, vigorous plants can produce 100,000 seeds annually.

Dispersal: Seeds are dispersed by wind, animals, fodder, machinery, vehicles, slashing and in soil.

Invades: A major agricultural weed occurring in areas with 500-900 mm annual rainfall. Also invades grasslands, grassy woodlands and drier forests.



Status: Environmental weed

Family: Ericaceae Origin: South-West Europe **Description**: An erect shrub to 3 m high with numerous pink tinged white flowers in late winter.

Fruit/Seeds: Capsules are produced after flowering containing numerous fine pepper-like seeds. Each plant can produce up to nine million seeds annually with viability exceeding 50%.

Dispersal: Small seeds are spread by wind, dumping of garden plants and slashing.

Invades: Highly invasive in high rainfall areas, capable of dominating the shrub canopy in bushland areas

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Poaceae Origin: Europe **Description**: An aggressive, inter-tidal perennial warm-season grass which was used to stabilize and reclaim tidal mudflats. Leaves taper to a fine point, flowering stems are stiff with upright flowers consisting of two to six spikes.

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by seed.

Dispersal: Seed and rhizomes are dispersed in water, mud and

during removal.

Invades: Estuarine mudflats, beaches and mangroves.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled (West Gippsland) Regionally prohibited (East Gippsland)

Family: Juncaceae **Origin**: Europe, Africa, America **Description**: A salt tolerant rush, grows to 3 m high, stems terminate with a sharp spine bearing clusters of reddish brown flowers several cm from the tip.

Fruit/Seeds: Capsules containing numerous seeds.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by water, machinery, mud, cultivation. **Invades**: Coastal marsh situations and inland wetland areas.









Origin: Europe and Asia Family: Euphorbia **Description**: The juvenile plant has a stout, erect stem with leaves opposite with a bluish-green colour. A white line runs the lengths of the leaf. The mature plant has a bush form. Has a poisonous milky latex. Always wear gloves and glasses during removal.

Fruit/Seeds: Leaf-like flowers during spring-summer.

Dispersal: Seed pods explode ending seeds up to 2 m, water

movement assists.

Invades: Bushland, roadsides and waste areas.

Control Measures:



Euphorbia paralias

Status: Environmental weed

Spurge - Sea

Family: Euphorbiaceae Origin: Mediterranean region **Description**: A perennial herb to 90 cm with long taproot and clusters of yellow-green cup-like flowers borne on ends of longest stems. Poisonous when damaged, plant exudes a caustic milky sap which can harm skin and eyes. Always wear gloves and glasses when hand pulling.

Fruit/Seeds: Fruit consists of green, hairless oval capsules

to 5 mm.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by ocean currents and wind.

Invades: Coastal primary sand dunes.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Hypericaceae **Origin**: Europe **Description**: A perennial herb to 1 m with numerous rust colored branches. Yellow flowers in spring-summer which have five petals with black dots along the margins. Toxic to stock if eaten.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds golden brown, pitted in sticky capsules. **Dispersal:** By seed or runners, spread by animals, wind, slashing, road machinery.

Invades: Sandy or gravelly soils along roadsides, railway lines

and degraded agricultural land.

Control Measures:









Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Roasaceae **Origin:** Europe, Western Asia **Description**: A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub to heights and widths of 3 m. Fragrant pinkish-white flowers in spring-early summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Oval fruits about 2 cm long maturing to red-orange over summer-autumn.

Dispersal: Seed is dispersed by birds, foxes and water.

Invades: Forms thickets, crowding and out-competing shrubs, preventing most overstorey regeneration. Invades grasslands, woodlands, rocky escarpments and riparian areas.











Family: Pittosporaceae Origin: Queensland, NSW, Vic **Description**: Tree which occurs naturally through much of Gippsland. Masses of sweet-scented flowers in spring which develop into orange berries in autumn.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds develop in orange berries.

Dispersal: Becoming more widespread due to altered drainage patterns, reduced fire frequencies and increased dispersal by birds. Westward distribution due to popularity as a garden plant.

Invades: Dense foliage which reduces light levels which effects the composition of ground flora and leaf litter altering soil chemistry.





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Poaceae **Origin**: Europe, Asia **Description**: A tall perennial, aquatic rhizomatous grass with stout stems, purple at the base. Has been known to cause cyanide poisoning in stock.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced on spikelets in mid-late summer. Dispersal: By seed and rhizomes, was introduced as a pasture plant suitable for wet areas.

Invades: Creeks and dams with the ability to form huge stands





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Asteraceae (Compositae) **Origin:** Europe, Asia **Description:** An erect perennial thistle with a creeping rootstock. The leaves are very dissected with spiny margins and white hairs underneath.

Fruit/Seeds: Heads of round purple-pink flowers appear in summer followed by seeds attached to hairs.

Dispersal: Reproduces from seed, creeping roots and rhizomes. Invades: Poorly managed pastures, often rampant after cultivation.

Control Measures: Thistles – Nodding Carduus nutans L NOXIOUS

Status: State prohibited

Family: Asteracaea (Compositaea) **Origin**: Europe, Asia **Description**: An erect perennial which grows as high as 2 m. The leaves are grey-green, deeply lobed and spiny continuing down the stem as wings. Large pinkish mauve flowers occur with a drooping head at end of branches.

Fruit/Seeds: Large disc-shaped flower heads contain hundreds of tiny individual flowers. Each plant may produce thousands of straw-coloured seeds adorned with plume-like bristles.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by wind, animals, machinery and in contaminated fodder.

Invades: Agricultural land





Origin: Mediterranean region, Asia Family: Asteraceae **Description:** Erect, often much-branched annual with narrow triangular leaves which terminate in a spine. Solitary light yellow flower heads are produced in summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are brownish-grey, 3 mm long with a pappus of stiff bristles.

Dispersal: The large seeds are not carried far by wind, but will float in water and are spread by animals, vehicles and machinery. Contamination of grain has introduced it to new areas.

Invades: Pasture land with a low fertility.

Control Measures:





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe, Asia, Africa **Description**: An erect, annual herb with strongly ribbed prickly stems and spiny leaves. Small purple-pink flowers in summer. Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are grey-brown with barbed hairs attached. Dispersal: By wind, animals, vehicles, machinery and livestock.

Invades: Agricultural land.





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Europe, Asia, Africa **Description:** An erect biennial plant, 50 cm to 1 m high. Divided

leaves with spiny lobes. Purple flowers in summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds with hairs attached produced after flowering.

Dispersal: Wind, water, vehicles and animals.

Invades: Pastures and roadsides.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Asteraceae Origin: Mediteranean, Asia, Soviet Union **Description:** An annual or biennial herb which can grow to 2.5 m. Leaves are variegated and hairy. Large purple flowers are produced at the end of branches in late spring-summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Each flower head can produce up to 200 seeds, each attached to a pappus of fine hairs.

Dispersal: Seed dispersed by wind, vehicles, machinery, animals

and in contaminated hay.

Invades: Established and degraded pastures and on waste

ground.





Status: Regionally controlled (East Gippsland & Port

Phillip)

Family: Solanaceae Origin: South America Description: An erect, vigorous annual with large leaves and much branched stems. Trumpet shaped white - pink flowers spring - summer.

All parts of the plant, but particularly the seeds are toxic.

Fruits/Seeds: Each species has a four-compartmented seed capsule covered in dense spines.

Dispersal: From seed in fodder and contaminated grain.

Invades: Pastures, roadsides and wastelands.

Control Measures:





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Solanaceae Origin: Argentina Description: Erect shrub to 3 m high with large leaves, greygreen on the underside and green on the upper surface. Purple flowers from autumn to spring. The plant is **poisonous** if eaten. Fruit/Seeds: Pale yellow fruit.

Dispersal: Seeds spread by birds and dumping of garden rubbish. Invades: Tends to occur along roadsides and railway lines.





Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Clusiaceae

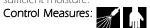
Origin: Western Europe and Mediterranean

Description: Erect perennial shrub to 1.5 m. Slender reddish stems with opposite leaves. Flowers produced in spring-summer have five yellow petals with numerous stamens.

Fruit/Seeds: Seeds are produced in pulpy, black capsules.

Dispersal: Seed is spread by birds, foxes, machinery and in soil and garden refuse.

Invades: Highly invasive in cool moist forest environments. Tolerates deep shade and open sunny environments with sufficient moisture.





Status: Environmental weed

Family: Commelinaceae Origin: South America Description: A rampant, smothering creeper with shiny dark green leaves and small white flowers spring-summer.

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by stolons which produce roots on contact with the ground.

Dispersal: Nodes readily take root if in contact with moist soil. Tends to proliferate along waterways as plant fragments move downstream. Often initiated from dumping of garden rubbish. **Invades**: Moist shaded positions along waterways, roadsides.









Status: State Prohibited

Family: Pontederiaceae Origin: Brazil **Description:** A free-floating aquatic perennial herb with bulbous stems to 1 m tall. Distinctive spikes of large showy mauve flowers Jan -March. A major weed of waterways around the world.

Fruits/Seeds: Numerous seeds in membranous capsules, can survive in dry mud for 15-20 years.

Dispersal: From seed, and vegetative reproduction from stolons and daughter plants. Dispersed by water, birds and through dumping of pond and aquarium material.

Invades: Wetlands and waterways. Dense growth reduces fish populations and can block waterways and threaten bridges. Vegetative growth from a single plant can cover 600 sq m in one season.

Control Measures:



Status: Regionally controlled

Family: Iridaceae **Origin**: South Africa **Description**: A perennial plant with pale green, sword-shaped leaves. A red-brown flowering stem develops winter-early spring. Red – orange trumpet shaped flowers form from which clusters of stem bulbils develop.

NOXIOUS

Fruit/Seeds: Reproduces by stem bulbils and corms.

Dispersal: By slashing and grading of roadsides, in soil, garden refuse. Invades: Roadsides, railway lines and a variety of native habitats.

Control Measures:







Status: Environmental weed

Family: Salicaceae **Origin**: Eurasia, Africa, America **Description**: Dense spreading trees which hybridise easily. Pussy and Basket willows most common in Gippsland. Widely planted for ornamental and functional purposes, particularly along waterways.

Fruit/Seeds: All willows are either male or female but not all species produce seed.

Dispersal: All willows reproduce vegetatively with twigs, stems and shoots dispersing by water and machinery. Pussy willow also reproduces by seed.

Invades: Waterways and wet areas where they compete vigorously for space, water and nutrients eliminating all indigenous vegetation. Willows alter the shape of banks, streambeds and channels through the capture of enormous amounts of sediment. Plants offer little in the way of food or shelter for native flora.







For further advice on...

Weed identification and control contact:

Department of Primary Industry Offices

 Yarram
 5183 9100

 Maffra
 5147 0800

 DPI Customer Service Centre
 136 186

 Website
 www.nre.vic.gov.au

Native plants, revegetation or Landcare enquiries contact:

Landcare Facilitators

Maffra and District 5147 0852
Yarram Yarram Catchment 5183 9126
Website www.landcare.net

Direct seeding of native seed contact:

Greening Australia Facilitators

Maffra 5147 0854 Leongatha 5662 5201

Herbicide use contact:

Herbicide Companies

Phone the 1800 number on the label of the product.

General enquiries contact:

Wellington Shire Council

Port of Sale 1300 366 244 Website www.wellington.vic.gov.au

This information was compiled by a committee comprising Jeff Clark, Carolyn Ferguson, Bill Aitken, Chris Rankin, Derek Hibbert, Kellie Nichols, Susan Tunnell-Jones, Thierry Roland and Natalie Liddell.

We acknowledge the assistance of Greening Australia.

Bairnsdale 5152 3099 Leongatha 5662 5201 Heidelberg 9457 3024



Technical assistance from Mary Ellis, David Ziebell, Mal Gibson and Liz Jacobsen.

Photographs courtesy of Mal Gibson, David Ziebell, Mary Ellis, Jeff Clark, Derek Hibbert and Keith Turnbull Research Institute staff.

12/02



Printed by The DCP Group (03) 5625 1526