

Environmental Weeds

Common garden and agricultural plants that are environmental weeds in the Yarra Ranges



Weed control responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the land owner or land occupier to control weeds growing on their property and ensure they are not escaping into neighbouring properties.

Community action

We have many dedicated residents and community groups who assist with weed control on public land in our region. Yarra Ranges Council supports these efforts by providing training, information, equipment, and operational support.

Residents are encouraged to control weeds on their property and join with neighbours and established community groups to help stop environmental weeds from degrading the biodiversity values of their local area.

More information

This brochure is a guide only and should not be relied upon as the only source of identification prior to control work being undertaken.

yarraranges.vic.gov.au/weeds

deeca.vic.gov.au

agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weeds-information

weeds.org.au



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About Environmental Weeds

Weeds that invade bushland and threaten native plants by out-competing them are known as environmental weeds. They are typically plants that have been introduced to an area and can become a major threat to our natural environment and biodiversity.

Many environmental weeds are able to establish themselves great distances from the parent plant, whether through bird dispersal of berries, wind-blown seed, or improper disposal.

Environmental weeds are sold through major retailers and markets, thus you should familiarise yourself with them to avoid planting more.

Once established, environmental weeds can be extremely difficult and costly to remove. If you have these weeds in your garden you should work towards safely removing or ensuring they don't spread.

The most common and problematic weeds in the Yarra Ranges are featured in this brochure, and there are many more. If you're having trouble identifying a weed or need more detailed control information get in touch with Council.



Weeds of National Significance (WONS)



WONS have been identified as the weeds that have the most significant impact across Australia, both environmentally and economically, and are a priority for control.

Native Species as Weeds



Not all weeds are exotic plants. Some Australian native species can have weed characteristics when growing outside of their normal range. Look out for the native plants listed in this brochure that are known to cause harm to our local environment.

Declared Noxious Weeds

These plants have been declared noxious under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act). These plants have the potential to cause serious environmental and/or economic harm. All land owners and land occupiers are responsible for managing noxious weeds on their land. Please let Council know if you find a noxious weed outbreak on public land, or if you need further information or advice on tackling noxious weeds on your property. For the full list of noxious weeds visit deeca.vic.gov.au



Weed Information

Yarra Ranges Council's website contains a range of information to help you deal with weeds on your property including:

- common weeds fact sheets
- noxious and state prohibited weeds
- weed wipeout vouchers
- weed videos and webinars
- how Council manages weeds on public land.

Common Weeds in Yarra Ranges

The weeds featured in this booklet can also be found on our website along with more extensive information including:

- weed origin
- plant size
- what it does to the environment
- how it spreads
- how to remove it
- how to dispose of it
- indigenous plant alternatives.

Visit
yarraranges.vic.gov.au/weeds
for more information

Noxious and State Prohibited Weeds

Visit yarraranges.vic.gov.au/weeds for a list and information on noxious weeds. These weeds cannot be placed in your FOGO bin — refer to agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds for full information.

Weed Wipeout Vouchers

Council provides tip vouchers for disposal of select environmental weeds. Vouchers are valid for 1 cubic metre of weeds and residents are eligible for 4 vouchers per property, per financial year.

Weed Videos

We have a range of weeds videos at our website including:

- Environmental weed management with Dr Graeme Lorimer
- Environmental weed control panel discussion
- Common weeds of the Yarra Ranges
- How to treat English Ivy
- How to treat woody weeds



Treating Environmental Weeds

Remove by hand



Cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Drill and fill with herbicide*



Spray with herbicide*



Dig out



* Herbicide Use

Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines when using chemicals. Many herbicide labels are limited in information. Please refer to the manufacturer's product information available through specialist suppliers or their website to determine the best product for your needs.

Ensure that you wear protective clothing/eyewear at all times when applying herbicides. When purchasing your herbicide always ask for a Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or refer to the manufacturer's website for specific safety guidelines and information.

Be aware some herbicides will kill other plants and not just the target species. If used near waterways herbicides can be very poisonous to aquatic life. Always use chemicals sparingly and be sure that you are using the right chemical and application technique. Ensure the weather conditions are suitable (e.g. minimal wind and no rain expected) for the safest

and most effective application. It is also important to ensure you apply herbicides at the correct time during the plant's growth cycle so you get the best results with minimal environmental damage.

Treatment Timing

Weed control requires effective and ongoing commitment to ensure success. Use this guide and other references to determine the control techniques and the best timing. When planning your weed control consider which follow-up treatment will be required to ensure effective long-term control.

Replacement Plants

Bare ground attracts weeds, therefore, you should consider planting indigenous alternatives after you have successfully removed weeds. Visit yarranges.vic.gov.au/plants to find suitable species.

Calendar Key

Flowering

Seeding

Treatment

Grasses and Herbs

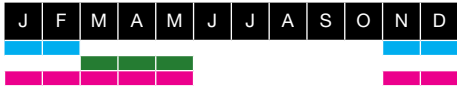
Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis



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

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Angled Onion

Allium triquetrum



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

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Arum Lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica



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

Removal: By hand, dig out



Bulbill Watsonia

Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera



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

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Flowering

Seeding

Treatment

Grasses and Herbs

Montbretia

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora



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

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Pampas Grass

Cortaderia selloana



Large tussock grass (2-6m tall), large white flower plumes can produce up to 100,000 seeds each. Seeds spread by wind.

Removal: Dig out, spray with herbicide*



Quaking Grass

Briza maxima



Erect annual grass with distinctive drooping seed heads. Infestations outcompete native grasses.

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Soursob

Oxalis pes-caprae



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

Removal: Dig out, spray with herbicide*



Climbers and Creepers

Asparagus Fern

Asparagus scandens



Climbing vine with underground rhizomes. Flat leaves, twisting stems, orange-red berries. Seed spreads by birds.

Removal: by hand, spray with herbicide*



Banana Passionfruit

Passiflora tarminiana



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

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Blue Periwinkle

Vinca major



Dense groundcover, invades damp, shady areas. Lilac-blue 5 petal flowers. Broad oval shaped shiny dark green leaves. Stem fragments root and grow new plants.

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Bluebell Creeper

Billiarderia heterophylla



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

Removal: by hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Flowering

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Climbers and Creepers

Bridal Creeper

Asparagus asparagoides



Aggressive climber forms large mats on ground and climbs up trees. Thin stems, small bright green leaves, small white flowers, round green to red berry.

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Cape Ivy

Delairea odorata



Vigorous vine that carpets the ground and grows up vegetation. Spreads by seed and stem fragments that root and grow new plants.

Removal: By hand, spray with herbicide*



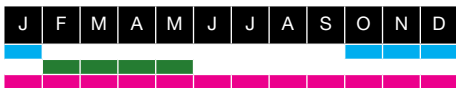
Creeping Buttercup

Ranunculus repens



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

Removal: By hand, spray with herbicide*



English Ivy

Hedera helix



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

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*, dig out



Climbers and Creepers

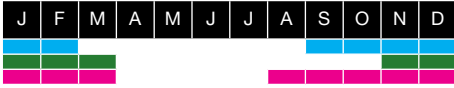
Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica



Fast growing climber that blankets other vegetation. Tubular yellow-white flowers turn to black berries. Spread by birds and by stems rooting.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Wandering Trad

Tradescantia fluminensis



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

Removal: Dig out, spray with herbicide*



Replacing Weeds

Once you've removed weeds consider revegetating the area as soon as possible to discourage weeds from taking over again.

Planting indigenous plant species is highly recommended as they are most suited to our environment and will require less maintenance.

To find out which plants are suitable to plant in the Yarra Ranges visit:

- yarraranges.vic.gov.au/plants
- growmeinstead.com.au
- a local indigenous plant nursery



Shrubs

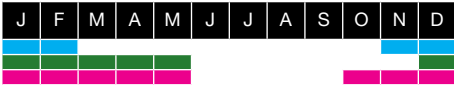
Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus spp. aggregate



Woody shrub with erect prickly cane stems that form dense thickets. Fruit spread by birds and foxes. Canes and root fragments form new plants.

Removal: Dig out, spray with herbicide*, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Boneseed

Chrysanthemoides monilifera



Erect shrub to 3m. Coarsely toothed oval leaves, yellow flowers, egg-shaped smooth brown fruit.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



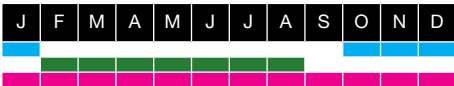
Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster spp.



Erect woody shrub 2-4m tall and wide. Small white flowers turn to large clusters of red berries. Popular as a hedge. Spread by birds.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*



English Broom

Cytisus scoparius



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

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Shrubs

Gorse

Ulex europaeus



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

Removal: Dig out, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Mirrorbush

Coprosma repens



Up to 8m tall. Broad oval, glossy leaves, small greenish flowers turn to clusters of globular orange fruit. Popular as a hedge. Seed spread by birds.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Montpellier Broom

Genista monspessulana



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

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Myrtle Leaf Milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia



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

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Flowering

Seeding

Treatment

Shrubs

Privet

Ligustrum vulgare



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

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Red Cestrum

Cestrum elegans



Up to 3m tall. Large pointed oval leaves with dense clusters or red tubular flowers. Red globular berries. Poisonous.

Removal: By hand, cut and paint with herbicide*



Ragwort

Jacobaea vulgaris



Erect perennial herb to 1.2m. Initial rosette of leaves then produces erect stems. Numerous yellow daisy shaped flower heads. Poisonous. Can be confused with indigenous Senecio species.

Removal: By hand, spray with herbicide*



Spanish Heath

Erica lusitanica



Erect slender shrub to 2m. Profuse white/pink bell-shaped flowers on leafy branches. Spread by seed and root suckering. Can be confused with indigenous Epacris species e.g Common Heath.

Removal: By hand, dig out, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Shrubs

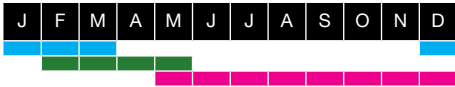
Spear Thistle

Cirsium vulgare



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

Removal: By hand, spray with herbicide*



Tutsan

Hypericum androsaemum



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

Removal: By hand, dig out, spray with herbicide*



Weed Disposal Vouchers

Council provides tip vouchers for disposal of the following environmental weeds.

To apply for a voucher visit yarraranges.vic.gov.au/weeds

- English Ivy
- Blue Periwinkle
- Montbretia
- Agapanthus
- Wandering Trad
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Wild Tobacco Tree
- Arum Lily
- Cape Ivy
- Banana Passionfruit
- Spanish Heath
- Red Cestrum
- Spear Thistle
- Ceder Wattle
- Sweet Pittosporum
- Cape Wattle
- Cherry Laurel
- Holly
- Sycamore Maple
- Desert Ash
- Cotoneaster
- Mirrorbush
- Privet

Cape Wattle

Paraserianthes lophantha



Small tree to 8m with ridged branches. Bipinnate leathery leaves, flowers greenish-yellow with bottle-brush like spikes that turn to seed pods. Forms dense stands.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*,



Cedal Wattle

Acacia elata



Up to 15m tall, bipinnate leaf structure. Numerous creamy white flower heads in large clusters, seed pods 10-15cm.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Cherry Laurel

Prunus laurocerasus



Hardy perennial multi-stemmed woody shrub common as a hedge. Large, oblong leaves. Upright spikes of small ivory flowers turning to purplish black berries. Seeds spread by birds.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Cootamundra Wattle

Acacia baileyana



Small tree 4-8m tall. Bipinnate blue-green to silver-grey leaves, sprays of golden yellow flower balls, straight seed pods.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Trees

Desert Ash

Fraxinus angustifolia



Deciduous tree to 20m. Spreads by seed in wind and water and root suckering which can form dense stands.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna



Deciduous tree to 10m tall with thorny stems. Small fragrant white/pink flowers turn to clusters of red berries, distinctive leaves with toothed margins.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



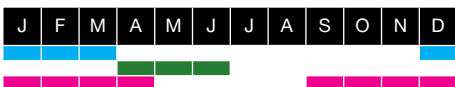
Holly

Ilex aquifolium



Large evergreen shrub, spiky green leaves with bunches of bright red berries. Seeds spread by birds, also suckers to form dense thickets.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Karamu

Coprosma robusta



Small tree to 8m tall. Leaves glossy green pointed oval shape. Mature fruit red and egg-shaped. Can invade undisturbed sites.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*



Flowering

Seeding

Treatment

Radiata Pine

Pinus radiata



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

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, drill and fill with herbicide*



Strawberry Tree

Arbutus unedo



Up to 10m tall with flaky bark. White/pinkish flowers turn to a rough berry fruit that matures to orange-red. Leaves oblong with pointed tips.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, drill and fill with herbicide*



Sweet Pittosporum

Pittosporum undulatum



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

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, drill and fill with herbicide*



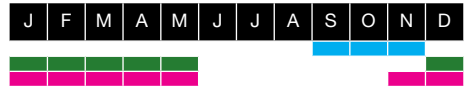
Sycamore Maple

Acer pseudoplatanus



Fast growing deciduous tree to 30m. Large 5 point leaves with v-shaped fruits that spin like a propeller. Regrow when cut.

Removal: Dig out, cut stem and paint with herbicide*, spray with herbicide*



Trees

Wild Tobacco Tree

Solanum mauritianum



Dense woolly shrub to 4m covered in hairs. Leaves grey-green with soft hairs, clusters of violet coloured flowers turn to orange berries. Invades waterways.

Removal: By hand, cut stem and paint with herbicide*,



Willow

Salix spp.



Large deciduous, many stemmed tree. Invades river banks and wetlands forming dense thickets. Only *S. cinerea* sets seeds. Reproduces by stem fragment.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, drill and fill with herbicide*



Willow-Leaved Hakea

Hakea salicifolia



Small tree to 6m tall with peeling brown bark. Narrow, oblong leaves, clusters of fragrant white flowers. Germinates profusely after fire.

Removal: Cut stem and paint with herbicide*, drill and fill with herbicide*



Gardens for Wildlife Program

Once you've successfully removed weeds from your property find out how to create a wildlife-friendly garden by joining the Yarra Ranges Gardens for Wildlife Program.

Sign up at
yarraranges.vic.gov.au/yr4w



yarraranges.vic.gov.au