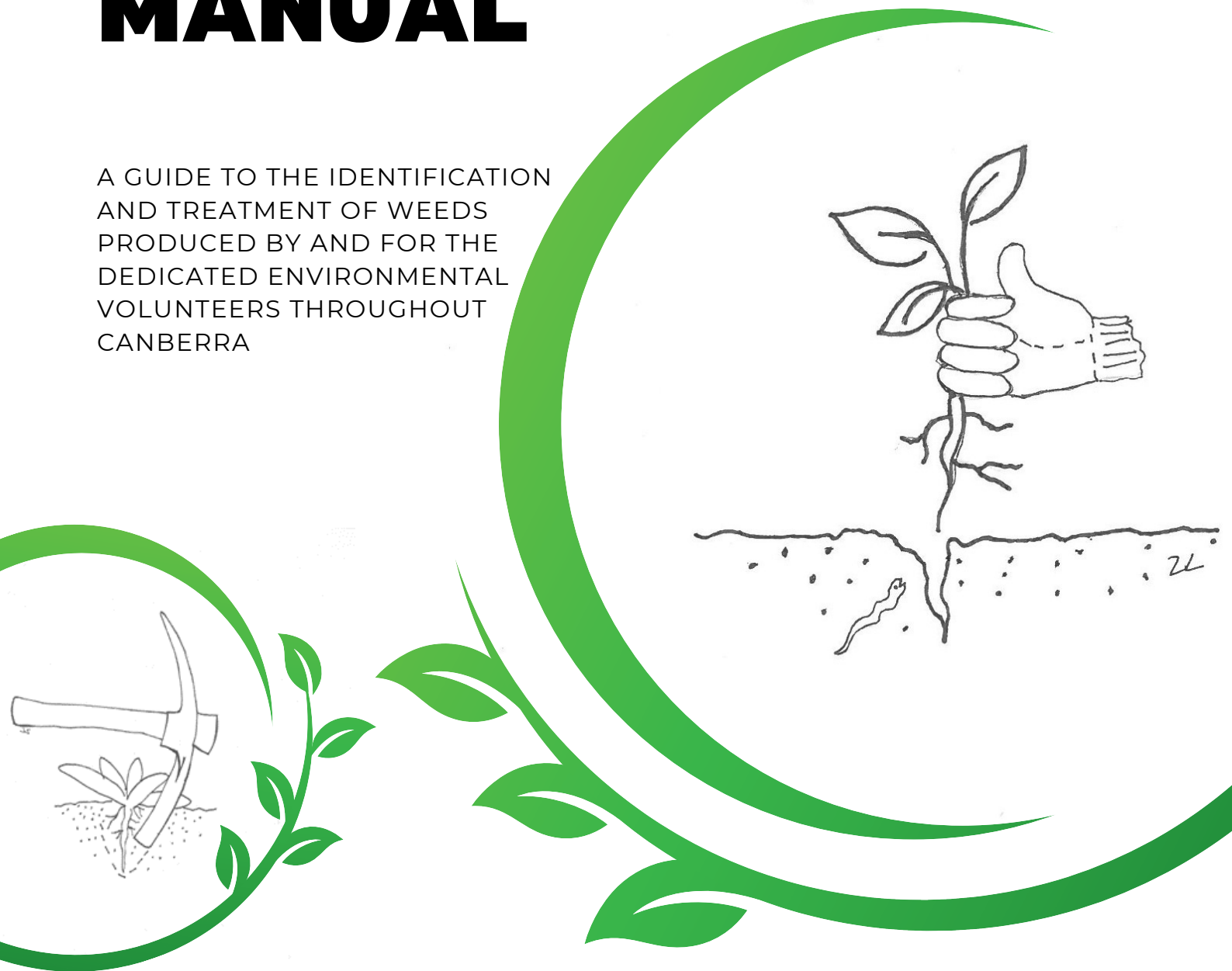


# ACT WEEDS

## MANUAL

A GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION  
AND TREATMENT OF WEEDS  
PRODUCED BY AND FOR THE  
DEDICATED ENVIRONMENTAL  
VOLUNTEERS THROUGHOUT  
CANBERRA



Supported by



**ACT**  
Government



**SOUTHERN ACT**  
CATCHMENT GROUP INC



Friends of  
Grasslands

The best time to control a weed was five years ago, the second best time is now

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to acknowledge the Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri peoples, who have taught, and continue to teach us how to care for Country.

This manual was created for volunteers by a large group of people within the Canberra environmental community. It is a testament to the level of expertise and capacity contained within this community.

Thanks go to:

- The group of Park Care volunteers who contributed weeding principles, expertise, experience with weed management, weed profiles and treatment prescriptions.
- The volunteers who proof-read and edited the text and photos, as well as the scientific and common names of all the plants mentioned
- Southern ACT Catchment Group, for managing the project, running meetings, fabulous drawings and production of final document.
- The Park Care Volunteer coordination team, for being willing to support this project, for excellent suggestions when they were needed, and for coordinating the photos
- The TCCS Urban Parks and Places Volunteer coordination team
- The ACT Government Biosecurity team Steve Taylor and Harley Baker for expert advice
- Friends of Grasslands for expert advice
- All of the contributors of photos, mostly accessed through Canberra Nature Map, who generously agreed to the use of their pictures. They are referenced using their initials in the body of the manual, but are given here in full, in alphabetical order by first name

Alistair Drake / Archer Callaway / Barb Read / Christine Darwood / Ciaran Ernst-Russell / Danswell Starrs / Deb Ralph / Gavin Longmuir / Geoff Robertson / Janet Diane Russell / Jennie Widowson / Jim Lehane / Kumiko Callaway / Lesley Harland / Matthew Frawley / Michael Bedingfield / Michael Sim / Murray Fagg / Ned Johnston / Paul Ratcliffe / Rosemary Purdie / Steve Borkowskis / Sue Ross / Trevor Preston / Vera Kurz / Waltraud Pix / Wendy Lee / Zohara Lucas (drawings)

Special thanks go to Friends of Grasslands for their generous grant to support the design and digital publication of the manual. As well as assistance from the ACT Government under the 2022-2023 ACT Environment Grant Program, awarded to the Southern ACT Catchment Group

# Contents

**Contents** ..... 1

**Introduction**..... 4

*Why remove weeds?* ..... 4

*Types of weeds* ..... 4

*A note on scientific names*..... 5

**Principles for tackling weeds** ..... 6

**Working on PCS or TCCS land** ..... 9

**Weed control methods** ..... 10

*Timing*..... 10

*Long term weed control* ..... 10

*Manual methods* ..... 10

*Herbicide methods*..... 11

*Using Herbicides* ..... 12

*Safety*..... 13

*Ready reference guide to approved herbicides and mixes for PCS volunteer use*..... 14

**Native plants that can become weedy**..... 16

*The conundrum of native weeds* ..... 16

**ACT Weeds** ..... 17

**African Boxthorn**..... 19

**African Lovegrass** ..... 21

*African Lovegrass Identification Tips*..... 23

**Blackberry** ..... 24

**Briar Rose/Sweet Briar**..... 26

**Bridal Creeper/Florist’s Smilax** ..... 28

**Broad-leaved Privet/Large-leaved Privet** ..... 29

<b>Broom/Scotch Broom/English Broom .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Cape Broom/Montpellier Broom .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Chilean Needlegrass .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<i>Chilean Needlegrass Identification Tips .....</i>	<i>37</i>
<b>Chinese Privet/Small-leaved Privet .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Cobbler’s Peg .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Cootamundra Wattle.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Cotoneaster/Large-leaved Cotoneaster .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Egg-leaf Spurge/Caustic Weed .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>English Ivy .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Firethorns/Orange Firethorn/Nepal Firethorn/Red Firethorn.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Fireweed .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Gleditsia/Honey Locust/Thorny Locust .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Hawthorn.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Horehound.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Japanese Honeysuckle .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Lavender/Spanish Lavender.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Mulleins/Verbascum .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Olive/African Olive.....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Paterson’s Curse and Viper’s Bugloss .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Periwinkle/Blue Periwinkle/Greater Periwinkle .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Prickly Pear .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Radiata Pine .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Serrated Tussock .....</b>	<b>71</b>

---

<i>Serrated Tussock Identification Tips</i> .....	73
<b>St John’s Wort</b> .....	<b>74</b>
<b>Tree of Heaven</b> .....	<b>77</b>
<b>Viburnum/Laurustrinus</b> .....	<b>78</b>
<b>Additional weeds to keep an eye out for, but with no individual profile</b> .....	<b>80</b>
<b>Using the Field Maps app</b> .....	<b>93</b>
<b>Some suggestions for identifying a plant</b> .....	<b>94</b>
<b>Further resources</b> .....	<b>95</b>
<i>Online resources</i> .....	95
<i>Books</i> .....	96

## Introduction

This guide is intended to help volunteer groups working on reserves in Canberra Nature Parks (CNP) and urban parks make weeding decisions and provide practical advice on controlling priority weeds. Technical information provided has been checked by the team of experts from ACT volunteer groups, the ACT government and ecologists for accuracy.

You are probably reading this manual as you are also caring for an area of land. Many people just like you have helped produce this manual; people who pop out occasionally to pull a weed from their favourite reserve, others who have dedicated their lives to skilling themselves and teaching others how to identify and treat weeds. This manual is a collaboration and combination of much knowledge, passion and collective community effort to share information on what to do about weeds. So go on, get out and use this manual to help care for Country.

### Why remove weeds?

We weed to remove or reduce the competition experienced by the plants we want from the plants we don't want. Most of us learn about weeding in our home gardens where weeds can usually all be removed, albeit with constant effort. Weeding the bush is different; we can't hope to remove all the weeds. The best that we can do is reduce their impact by strategising and prioritising where and how we apply our effort. The principles, and the guidance on dealing with individual weeds that follow will help you do that. Leave your gardening hat behind when you go into the bush and put on a land caring one.

Weeding in the bush needs to be done with a focus on improving the natural biodiversity of the area rather than eradicating every weed on site. We are not gardening the area; we are giving nature a hand. Improving biodiversity means improving the ecological function of the area. Think about what animals use the site, whether there is habitat for small birds, reptiles, invertebrates? What about the type and range of plants? This may mean certain low priority woody weeds are retained to provide habitat until they can be replaced, it may also mean woody debris is left on the ground to provide important habitat for fungi, reptiles and invertebrates, or to protect an area from grazing.

### Types of weeds

A weed is a plant growing in an area it is not wanted. Weeds are generally classified into invasive species, transformer species or sleeper weeds depending on their environmental impact.

**Invasive species:** Weeds that adversely impact natural areas are termed invasive species. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definition shows the difference between weeds and invasive plants: "Invasive alien species are animals, plants or other organisms, introduced by humans, either intentionally or accidentally, into places outside of their natural range, negatively impacting native biodiversity, ecosystem services

or human economy and well-being". So, all invasive plants are weeds, but not all weeds are invasive plants.

**Transformer species:** Transformer species are weeds that alter the ecology of the area they grow in. For example, transformer species can excessively use resources, promote or suppress fire, promote erosion, accumulate litter/sand/sediment and accumulate salt.

**Sleeper weeds:** Sleeper weeds are plants that have naturalised to an environment and have a potential to become invasive. When prioritising which weeds to remove, it is important to monitor populations of sleeper weeds and be ready to remove them if the populations increase.

*Invasive species and transformer species are priority weeds.*

*Sleeper weeds are ones to keep an eye on.*

### **A note on scientific names**

This manual uses accepted common names, and the latest agreed scientific names. Common names can be confusing because they may refer to one or more plants, and different plants in different countries. Scientific names are generally more reliable. For example, if you are looking online for more images, or treatment options, then we recommend searching using the scientific name. Be aware of the sources in your search results – are they Australian, government or council, from a trustworthy author or organisation? Advice given for treating a plant in another country or environment may not be relevant here.

## Principles for tackling weeds

- **Weed from the good areas out** (one of the original principles of the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration, first developed by the Bradley sisters in Sydney). These might be gullies, grassland patches or rocky outcrops. Start at the top of a watercourse, gully or rise, as the seeds and plant parts may work their way down. A 'good patch' is an area of higher ecological value, which may be so for a number of reasons. For example, it may provide habitat for a vulnerable species like the Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*), be a relatively undisturbed remnant with high biodiversity, or have value as a connection between other patches. It is beyond the scope of this manual to explore this in detail, but keep in mind that all groups working in reserves and urban open spaces have a work plan, and this will likely include these good patches.
- **Try to create as little disturbance as possible when you weed** (another Bradley Method principle). Avoid bare ground. This is especially true on steep slopes where weeding can lead to erosion. Removing one type of weed can lead to other weeds germinating, which may happen more quickly than native germination. If bare ground is unavoidable then apply clean mulch, direct seed or schedule regular follow up.
- **Practice good weed hygiene.** Many types of weeds, such as Mulleins, St John's Wort and Paterson's Curse, can simply be piled in large heaps on site, where they will compost and seeds are unlikely to germinate, and, if they do, are concentrated in one spot. This has been tested by Park Care groups and found to be very effective. Keep in mind that some weeds will continue to set seed even after being pulled up. It's best to choose a bare or weedy spot to make your pile as a big pile may kill whatever might be growing there. Weeds which may re-root, such as Ivy or Honeysuckle, can be laid on rock or logs to prevent contact with the soil. Consider removing them from the site if possible. You may be able to organise a Parks and Conservation (PCS) ranger to pick them up in bulk. Also pile weeds without seeds somewhere, (away from a fire trail or path) so you can see where and what you have been weeding. Remember also that you may carry weed seeds on clothing and footwear from one area to another. Note that volunteers in urban open spaces will need to arrange collection of their weeds in consultation with their volunteer coordinator, as weed material cannot be left on site.
- **Weed disposal off site.** If you do take weeds off site, the majority of weeds (including the plant, fruit and seed) can be disposed of in your green bin or taken to the tip as green waste. The high temperatures that are produced in the natural composting process at Corkhill Brothers reach around 55 - 65 C. This temperature kills the weed and majority of weed seeds. However, particularly noxious weeds with seeds (particularly grasses), such as African Lovegrass, Chilean Needle Grass and Serrated Tussock seeds need higher temperatures to kill the seeds. For these grassy weed seeds you can burn the seed heads, place in a plastic bag exposed to the sun for 6 months, or dispose of them in Landfill (red bin).



- **Prioritise new incursions before they get out of control.** Watch for garden escapees – Viburnum, Ornamental Pistachio, Seaside Daisy etc. Do not make the mistake of starting with the weediest spots. The priority is to keep good areas good; look after high quality habitat first, then work out to the lower quality weediest spots.
- **Think about why you are weeding** – is it to keep a patch in good shape, to arrest the seeding/spread of a weed, to assist an endangered species, or to control a weed of importance?
- **Make sure you know it is a weed before removing.** Many plants, grasses in particular, can be hard to identify, especially for beginners. Flowers and seed heads make this process much easier, as do the resources listed. Check also ‘Some suggestions for identifying new plants’ (page 96) for assistance, and use Canberra Nature Map (CNM) and iNaturalist for help with identification. If you are not sure, take some photos, note the location and then find out what it is. When you start, it may seem impossible that you will be able to tell the difference between plants that other people seem to identify immediately. Don’t worry, this comes with practice.
- **Add a patch to your calendar** and be prepared to return every year for several years, otherwise, the initial effort may be wasted. Plan to weed before seed set if possible. If you have totally removed or killed a dense patch of something, like African Lovegrass for example, you should check it in a few months at the latest to remove opportunistic weeds which may crowd out slower to germinate natives. These two photos show a small patch of *Echium* (*Figure 1*) germinating where African Lovegrass has been sprayed, and then after their removal native germination, in this case a species of *Desmodium* (*Figure 2*).



*Figure 1 (VK) weeds amongst dead weeds!*



*Figure 2 (VK) emerging natives!*

- **What will replace the weeds you have removed?** More weeds? That might be ok, if the weed is a lower risk one, but perhaps direct seeding and mulching could be helpful – as will follow up. This approach has been successful in restoration work undertaken through reserves in the ACT
- **Some weeds provide habitat for birds.** For example, a dense patch of Honeysuckle or a large prickly Hawthorn might be a place where birds are nesting, so check and time removal outside breeding season. Where there is little tree or shrub cover for birds, consider planting replacements for what you plan to remove and deferring removal until they grow. Woody weeds can be used as habitat or protection from grazing. For example, cut branches of Briar Rose laid on the ground after seeds are removed, can allow grasses and forbs to go to seed in drier seasons as they are protected from kangaroo grazing.
- **Consider cultural values.** This land has been Ngunnawal, Ngunawal and Ngambri land for many thousands of years, and many reserves contain identified cultural sites. There may also be other cultural values which you are not aware of but are nonetheless significant. If in doubt, seek advice.
- **Consider the implications of herbicides.** They are very useful, essential for some tasks, but they need to be used correctly. Off-target damage (when a neighbouring plant is affected) is a risk, as is destroying soil life if the incorrect application rate is used. Incorrect use of herbicides can also lead to herbicide resistance forming in invasive plant populations, for example, Serrated Tussock is becoming resistant to Flupropanate in certain areas of NSW. Always follow the directions on the label rate when mixing or seek advice.
- **Consider fire risk.** For example, making large piles of woody weeds may result in unwanted fuel loading. Leaving such piles directly under larger Eucalypts and Kurrajongs where weeds were growing may also cause more damage to the large trees in case of fire. Instead, store weed piles away from mature trees.
- **Monitor paths and animal paths for weeds** as new infestations are often inadvertently introduced by visitors. Likewise, path users may pick up weed seeds on clothing, fur and muddy feet and spread them elsewhere. Consider removing significant weeds from near paths.
- **After prescribed burns monitor areas for the appearance of weeds.** Deep-rooted weeds such as St John's Wort and African Lovegrass can be the first to appear after a burn. In this situation, they are easily located and can be sprayed with less risk of off-target damage to native vegetation.
- **Don't forget to map your efforts on Field Maps.** This is an app to map both treated and untreated weeds in the ACT, used by land managers to prioritise weeding efforts. Further information about using Field Maps is given at the end of the manual.
- **Keep notes and monitor effectiveness of your efforts** – photo points are an easy way to track progress. **Celebrate your efforts!**

## Working on PCS or TCCS land

ACT PCS carries out weed control targeting priority weeds in priority areas. Volunteers provide essential additional weed control in Canberra's reserves and parks. As funding for weed management is limited, volunteer groups should inform themselves of PCS/Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) planned works and priorities to ensure that any treatment is complementary.

Each ACT Government Directorate has different rules and regulations on the use of power tools and herbicides. Identify whether you are working in the nature reserves (PCS) or in urban open space (TCCS). Ensure you review the current volunteer policies and handbooks prior to engaging in weed management activities. For PCS volunteers these can be found on the [Park Care Hub](#), and for TCCS volunteers these can be found on the [City Services website](#). These policies and handbooks also contain valuable information about working safely, operational guidelines and other considerations.

Park Care volunteers are not able to use power tools (at time of writing). If undertaking works that require power tool use, please contact the Park Care management team for support. Volunteers who are Australian Qualification Training Framework Level 3 (equivalent to ChemCert and SMARTtrain 3) accredited can undertake weed control using herbicide products containing active ingredients Glyphosate 360 g/L (Round Up), MCPA 750 g/L (Agritane), Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced) and Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff). Herbicides containing active ingredients other than those listed can only be used upon prior approval from the Volunteer Coordinator. Cut-stump (cut and dab) herbicide application may only be undertaken by volunteers who are not accredited if they are under the direct supervision of an AQF3 qualified volunteer or staff member.

TCCS volunteers are not able to use power tools. If undertaking works that require power tool use, please contact the TCCS Volunteer Coordinator for support. Volunteers who are Australian Qualification Training Framework Level 3 (equivalent to ChemCert and SMARTtrain 3) accredited can undertake weed control using herbicide products containing active ingredients Glyphosate 360g/L (Round Up). Furthermore, weeded material may not be left on site in urban open space, and removal must be organised.

Private leaseholders and Landcarers outside of the ACT must have the relevant permits, and act in accordance with their local Council guidelines.

## Weed control methods

### Timing

The weed profiles in this manual indicate the best times to control weeds, and should be observed when possible. While best treated when actively growing, many weeds can be treated at any time of year. You may wish to experiment with timing and methods (although not herbicide rates and prescriptions) from one season to another, and document your results, as precisely as possible. Share your results with the Park Care community, whether your feedback contradicts or confirms previous thoughts. Healthy discussion is useful.

### Long term weed control

In some circumstances it is appropriate to plant shrubs and trees that will eventually shade weedy areas and make them less suitable habitat for many weed species. Consider Acacias, Cassinias and Drooping Sheoaks for this, after consultation with PCS or TCCS.

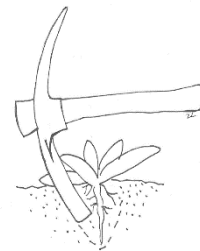
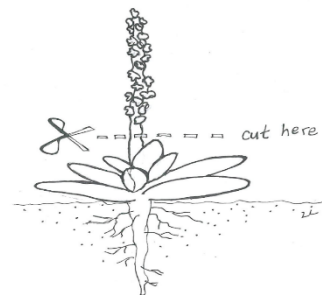
### Manual methods

**Chipping:** This is a useful method for many herbaceous plants and grasses and can be done year-round. Use the sharp flat edge of a hand mattock to chip out the whole plant. Aim for about an inch below the surface so it is severed below any green growth. Take care not to disturb the soil too much. Pile up the plants so you can see where you have worked, and to control any seeds.



**Hand pulling:** Good for controlling the seedlings of many weeds such as Privet, Lavender, Viburnum, small Cootamundra Wattle and newly emerged Hawthorn and Briar Rose. It is easier to do when the soil is moist but still feasible if plants are small. Grip the plant close to the ground and ease out, ensuring that the roots come with it, and minimising disturbance. After wet weather, even St John's Wort can be manually removed.

**Removing seedheads:** It is often worth removing the seed-bearing parts of a weed to reduce seed load. Ideally these should be carefully bagged and removed from the site, or alternatively piled together. A good example of when this might work is for mature Verbascum, where the flower and seed stalk can be cut off instead of the laborious process of digging out the whole plant. This can be done above ground level at about 30 cm, which is more ergonomically friendly and faster (In urban open space, all stems must be cut as low to the ground as possible to avoid trip hazards) Timing is important, as new flower stalks can regrow if done too early. December/January is often appropriate, but this will vary with seasonality.



## Herbicide methods

**Cut and dab:** (also called **cut and paint**) Clear around the base of the plant if needed, to ensure all stems are visible on a multi-stemmed plant. Some weeds send up sneaky side stems. Cut stem as close to the ground as practically possible and apply herbicide immediately; within 15 seconds. The cut stem should be thoroughly coated with a dabber or wand, but without excessive dripping. The herbicide needs to be applied quickly because the plant will mount a defence to prevent the herbicide entering its vascular system and thus working effectively. For a multi-stemmed plant, treat one to three stems at a time. Remove stems as you go, to ensure all stems are treated, and also for safer working. The exception is if the stems are too big or providing some habitat. Smaller stems can be cut with loppers, larger with a saw. On larger stems, the most important part of the cut stem to cover with herbicide is the outer circumference as the transfer of herbicides (and nutrients and water) takes place just under the bark.

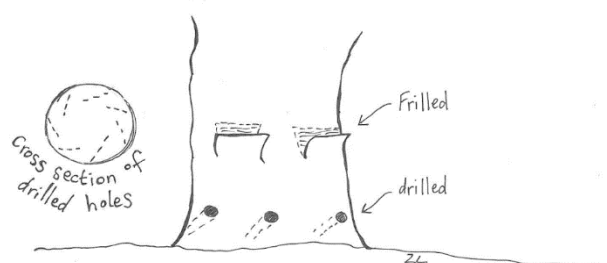


The general formula is one part Glyphosate 360 to one part water, or as advised in the individual weed profiles. (See also NSW WeedWise, listed in the Further Resources section). Adding a few drops of red dye makes it easier to see how much you have applied, and which stems have been treated. It is important that cut and dab is not done when the temperature is too low (below 13 degrees) or too high (above 30 degrees) or in drought when plants are stressed, as the uptake of herbicide and thus efficacy will be reduced. Do not use this method during rain; however rain forecast need not be an obstacle as uptake is rapid and runoff not an issue.

Plants should be actively growing when treated. This generally means that evergreen plants like Privet may be treated year-round (noting temperature and other considerations), however, most deciduous plants should only be treated when in leaf during spring, summer and early autumn.

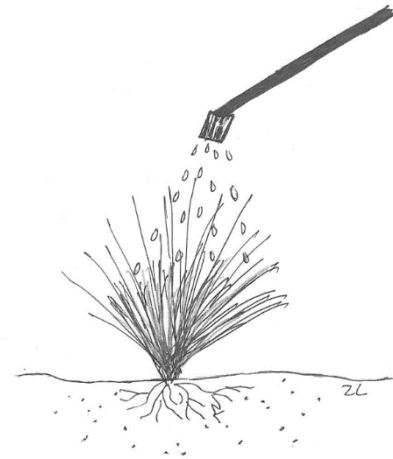
**Drill, Frill and fill:** Very similar to the method above, but useful for larger plants which are difficult to saw or need to be left *in situ* for habitat, or to avoid undue soil disturbance.

- Drill holes at a 45 degree angle down and across the bark, and spray or inject with a syringe using one part Glyphosate 360 and one part water
- For frilling, cut pouches into the stem with a sharp hatchet at a 45 degree angle into bark below any branching if possible and safe. Cut and spray each pouch as you go, making pouches about 2 cm apart. Spray with one part Glyphosate 360 to one part



water. Do not ringbark. Note that in urban open space, you will need the land manager's permission to remove trees over 15 cm in diameter.

**Spot spraying:** Use a hand held spray bottle or knapsack sprayer to target individual plants. Useful for small patches of African Lovegrass, Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort and some other weeds. Refer to individual weed profiles for herbicide type, mixing rates and application times. It is important to spray in times of light to no wind, and forecast dry conditions to avoid off-target damage. Spraying can only be done by volunteers with Chemcert or SmartTrain accreditation. It is usually recommended to add surfactant (a wetting agent) to ensure herbicide penetrates the leaves. Surfactant is not recommended for use with Glyphosate except for specific weeds, identified in the weed profiles. There are different types of surfactants, but the standard surfactant issued by PCS is Wetter 1000, which contains 1000 g/L of nonionic alcohol ethoxylates. The maximum rate recommended for such surfactants is 1ml per L of spray mix. Surfactant mixing rates in the weed profiles here apply to Wetter 1000, so be sure to check the instructions for the surfactant you are using if different. Red vegetable dye is also usually added to indicate where you have sprayed. It is also helpful for identifying leaks and spills if they occur. The standard rate recommended is no more than 1 ml/L, but check the instructions for the dye you are using.



It is important that spot spraying is not done when the temperature is too low (below 13 degrees) or too high (above 30 degrees) or in drought when plants are stressed, as the uptake of herbicide and thus efficacy will be reduced. Do not use this method during rain, and when more than 1 mm of rain is forecast for the following four to eight hours, as the uptake of herbicide by uncut foliage takes some time.

Use selective herbicides to minimise off-target damage. The effects on weeds may take some time to show. Selective herbicides affect broad leaved plants and not grasses. For example use Fluroxypyr on St John's Wort, not Glyphosate. Check labels for mixing instructions.

## Using Herbicides

A variety of methods are used to control weeds, and herbicides are just one of the suite available. Some important general notes on herbicide use are:

- Volunteers preparing herbicides for use must have undergone Chemcert training, and use appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment) including impermeable gloves, eye protection, face masks and overalls
- The labels for individual herbicides and additives such as surfactant and marker dye can be downloaded as needed from the manufacturer's website

- Some plants, including some annual grasses, can develop resistance to herbicides. This means it is important to ensure treatment is correctly applied, i.e. at the correct dosage, time and weather conditions
- Consider potential off-target damage from spray drift and use another method if there is any risk to other valuable species growing nearby
- Herbicides can adversely impact soil flora if incorrect rates are used

## **Safety**

Always wear appropriate clothing for the task: generally leather gloves and long sleeved sturdy shirts for most methods. When spraying add gloves with broad range chemical protection such as impermeable nitrile gloves. Eye protection and gloves to the elbow are recommended for weeds like Blackberry and Hawthorn, whose stems and thorns are savage, and for weeds with a toxic sap that can cause irritation e.g. *Euphorbia*. Refer to handbooks on the Park Care Hub and City Services website for more safety information.

## Ready reference guide to approved herbicides and mixes for PCS volunteer use

Note: these are general guidelines: please refer to individual weed profiles for more specific treatments

Herbicide	Herbicide rate for spraying	Weed	Notes
<b>Glyphosate 360g/L (Roundup)</b>  Do not apply if rain is likely within 6 hours	10 ml/L  Plus 1 ml/L red marker dye and surfactant if recommended for the specific target weed.	African Lovegrass  Chilean Needlegrass  Serrated Tussock	Will damage/kill other forbs/herbs
<b>Fluroxypyr 333g/L (Starane Advanced)</b>  Do not apply if rain is likely within 1 hour	3 ml/L  Plus 1 ml/L surfactant  Plus 1 ml/L red marker dye	Cobbler's Peg  Egg-leaf Spurge  Japanese Honeysuckle  Periwinkle  St John's Wort	Will damage/kill other forbs/herbs
<b>MCPA 750g/L (Agritone)</b>  Do not apply if rain is likely within 6 hours	2.7 ml/L  Plus 1 ml/L surfactant  Plus 1 ml/L red marker dye	Horehound <sup>1</sup>  Paterson's Curse <sup>2</sup>  Thistles	<sup>1</sup> Apply in autumn when at seedling stage  <sup>2</sup> Apply at rosette stage  Will damage/kill other forbs/herbs



<p><b>Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg (Brushoff, Bow Saw)</b></p> <p>Do not apply if rain is likely within 4 hours</p> <p>Note: This is a granular powder. A quarter of a teaspoon (1.25 ml) weighs 0.85 g.</p>	<p>0.05 g/L</p> <p>Plus 1 ml/L surfactant</p> <p>Plus 1 ml/L red marker dye</p>	<p>Mulleins (Verbascum)</p> <p>Paterson's Curse</p>	<p>Grasses unaffected; will kill other forbs and herbs</p>
	<p>0.1 g/L</p> <p>Plus 1 ml/L surfactant</p> <p>Plus 1 ml/L red marker dye</p>	<p>Blackberry</p> <p>Briar Rose<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Bridal Creeper</p> <p>Cobbler's Peg</p> <p>Euphorbia</p> <p>Hawthorn</p> <p>Japanese Honeysuckle</p> <p>Periwinkle</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> May not kill old large shrubs</p>
<b>Herbicide</b>	<b>Herbicide rate for cut and dab</b>	<b>Weed</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<p><b>Glyphosate 360g/L (Roundup)</b></p> <p>Do not apply if raining</p>	<p>1:1 (1 part Roundup to 1 parts water)</p> <p>Plus red marker dye</p>	<p>Many woody weeds</p>	<p>Same rate is applied for frilling.</p>

## Native plants that can become weedy

Common name	Scientific name
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>
Rosemary Grevillea	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>
White Tea Tree	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>
Tasmanian Blue Gum	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>

### The conundrum of native weeds

**To pull or not to pull!? You know it is a native, but it is also a weed... what to do!?**

These native plants have been classified as weeds as they are not native to the ACT and have the potential to spread or transform a habitat. For example, they can form dense growth which shades out other native species from growing. To prioritise how to deal with these plants it is helpful to look at your patch from an ecosystem perspective. What role do they play in the ecosystem and how much of a threat are they?

For example, in an area where the few shrubs for small birds are a low risk weed like Rosemary Grevillea (*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*) you may choose to retain the plants in the landscape until suitable local natives have established. In this case you may choose to leave the plant, in another situation you may choose to remove it. Choose what is best to do for your patch.

The most important thing to remember is that you are caring for a habitat, an area that supports many species. There is no right or wrong, just a choice you make to care for your land as best you can. You should also seek approval from PCS or TCCS before removing native plants.

## ACT Weeds

The environmental impact and priority assessments come from the [ACT Advisory list of naturalised alien plants - species assessment](#).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Environmental Impact	Priority
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Major	Medium-High
African Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Massive	Very high
Blackberry	<i>Rubus anglocandicans</i>	Massive	Very High
Briar Rose (Sweet Briar)	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Major	Moderate
Bridal Creeper (Florist's Smilax)	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Massive	Extreme
Broad-leaved Privet, (Large-leaved Privet)	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Major	Very High
Broom (Scotch Broom, English Broom)	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Massive	Extreme
Cape Broom (Montpellier Broom)	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Major	Very High
Chilean Needlegrass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Massive	Very High
Chinese Privet (Small-leaved Privet)	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Massive	Very High
Cobbler's Pegs	<i>Bidens pilosa</i> var. <i>minor</i>	Moderate	Moderate
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Major	High
Cotoneaster (Large-leaved Cotoneaster)	<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>	Major	High
Egg-leaf Spurge (Caustic Weed)	<i>Euphorbia oblongata</i>	Moderate	Moderate
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Major	High
Firethorns (Orange Firethorn, Nepal Firethorn, Red Firethorn)	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i> <i>Pyracantha crenulata</i> <i>Pyracantha fortuneana</i>	Moderate	Moderate
Fireweed	<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	Major	Very High

Common Name	Scientific Name	Environmental Impact	Priority
<b>Gleditsia (Honey Locust, Thorny Locust)</b>	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Major	Very High
<b>Hawthorn</b>	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Moderate	Moderate
<b>Horehound</b>	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Moderate	Low
<b>Japanese Honeysuckle</b>	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Major	High
<b>Lavender (Spanish Lavender)</b>	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>	Data deficient	Medium-High
<b>Mulleins (Great Mullein, Moth Mullein &amp; Twiggy Mullein)</b>	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> subsp. <i>thapsus</i> , <i>Verbascum blattaria</i> & <i>Verbascum virgatum</i>	Moderate	Medium-High
<b>Olive (African Olive)</b>	<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cuspidata</i>	Major	Very High
<b>Paterson's Curse (Viper's Bugloss)</b>	<i>Echium plantagineum</i> <i>Echium vulgare</i>	Moderate	Moderate
<b>Periwinkle (Blue Periwinkle, Greater Periwinkle)</b>	<i>Vinca major</i>	Major	High
<b>Prickly Pear</b>	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Major	High
<b>Radiata Pine</b>	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Major	Very High
<b>Serrated Tussock</b>	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Massive	Very High
<b>St John's Wort</b>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Moderate	Medium-High
<b>Tree of Heaven</b>	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Major	High
<b>Viburnum (Laurustrinus)</b>	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>	Data deficient	Moderate

## African Boxthorn

### *Lycium ferocissimum*

**Description:** Woody large sized shrub which forms impenetrable thickets (*Figure 3*). It has small smooth and fleshy leaves which can drop in cold or drought. It has savage thorns and small white to purple flowers followed by bright orange/red berries (*Figure 4*). It is spread by birds and foxes and suckers from roots



Figure 3 (SB) African Boxthorn growth habit



Figure 4 (MB) African Boxthorn leaves and fruit

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Medium high

**Situation in which to control:** All small infestations in CNP

**Control methods:**

- Hand pull seedlings
- Cut and dab mature shrubs with 1 part Glyphosate 360 to 1 part water, exercising great care due to thorns. Recommend eye protection and welding gloves.
- Foliar spraying is used for large infestations, but several treatments are required to kill mature plants

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Check treated areas for re-growth after 6 months, then annually for three years for seedling emergence. Plants will not set seed in first two years

**Similar species:** May be mistaken for Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa*) if there are no flowers or fruit, but Australian Blackthorn has much smaller and more delicate spines,

rather than thorns (*Figure 6*). It is also much more open in its growth. African Boxthorn flowers are light purple whereas Australian Blackthorn flowers are white (and sweet smelling).



*Figure 5 (JW) The invasive African Boxthorn*



*Figure 6 (VK) The native Australian Blackthorn*

## African Lovegrass

### *Eragrostis curvula*

**Description:** Dense perennial tussock grass. Several varieties occur differentiating by size (0.5 m and 1 m) and density. It has fine 3 mm wide pale green to blue-green/grey leaves with rolled edges which in winter can look pink-ish. The flowerhead is a spreading and finely branched panicle, dark blue-grey to black when mature (*Figure 8*). Small plants may be grazed. The ACT has tall and low forms of African Lovegrass (ALG). ALG can quickly become dominant, crowding out everything else (*Figure 9*). It has been widely spread in southern Canberra through mowing, and makes up the dominant grass on many roadsides and urban open spaces



*Figure 7 (MB) Growth pattern of African Lovegrass*



*Figure 8 (MS) African Lovegrass seedhead*

**Environmental impact:** Massive. It is a transformer species.

Risk Priority: Very High

**Situation in which to control:** In patches with good biodiversity. New, small incursions. Around the edge of good patches to contain the spread

#### Control methods:

- Manual removal (chipping) for small numbers. Bag and remove plants from site if possible, as seed is prolific. Dispose of in general waste not green waste. Note that seed can be produced at the base of the plant. If not much native cover is present, consider sowing with other grass/forb seed, as ALG seedlings are susceptible to competition

- Spot spray with Glyphosate 360 (10 ml/L water and optionally 1 ml/L surfactant). Make sure entire plant is covered. Usually two spray sessions per season are recommended as seedlings frequently appear; once in late spring and once in summer
- In larger areas, follow up spray may be useful after burning by rangers



Figure 9 (MB) African Lovegrass growth



Figure 10 (MB) African Lovegrass old seedheads

**Time to control:** Chipping any time but ensure correct identification. This is easiest with flowerhead present. Dry flowerhead can stay on plants for several months. Spray when plant is green and actively growing, usually October/November to April/May

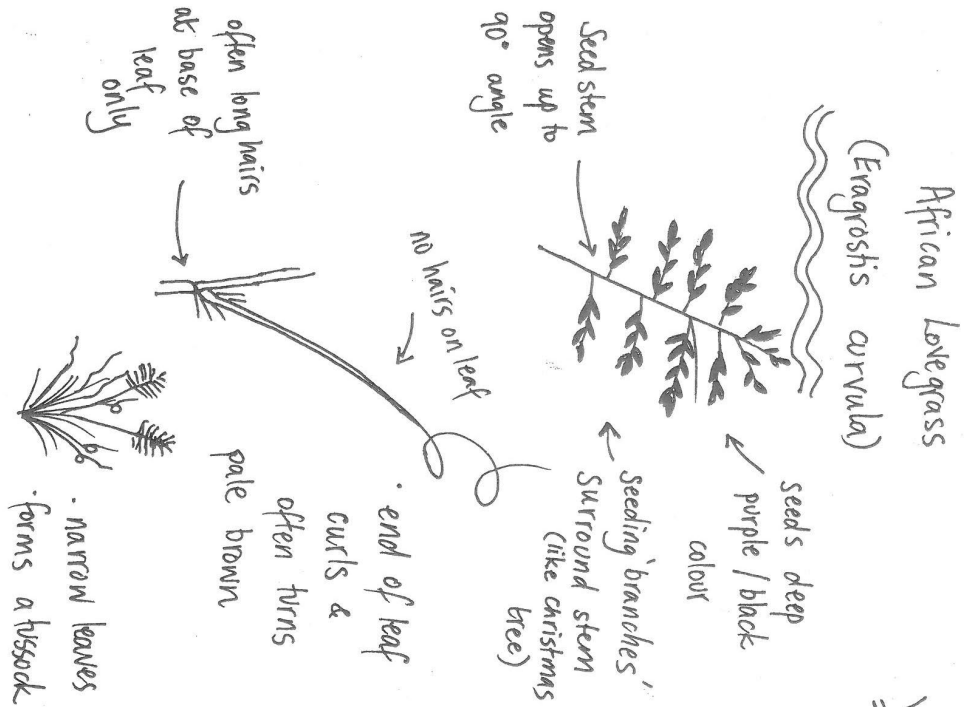
**Follow up:** Forever. Note that every minute of work before treatment carefully clipping ripe seed heads and bagging for removal is time well spent. However, this is impractical for large infestations. In those cases, the location will need to be revisited for possible control each year for many years - ALG seed bank is long lived.

**Similar species:** Native *Eragrostis* species. The native species tend be lower in height, have brighter green leaves and lighter coloured seed heads which are not as upright. Young ALG may be mistaken for young Barbed-wire Grass (*Cymbopogon refractus*), but the flowerheads are completely different. This is another reason to treat ALG whilst flowering, for easier identification

Native Hairy Panic (*Panicum effusum*) has similar flowerheads but thick leaves with distinct hairs along the tip. Native Poa species (*Poa* spp) also have flowerheads that superficially look like African Lovegrass panicles, but on closer inspection Poa have no hairs on the leaves and a wide angle between the stem and branches of the panicle. Stem surrounded by seeds/flowers, like a Christmas tree. On Poa species the seeding branches do not surround the stem (i.e. you can see the stem along one side)



### African Lovegrass Identification Tips



VS

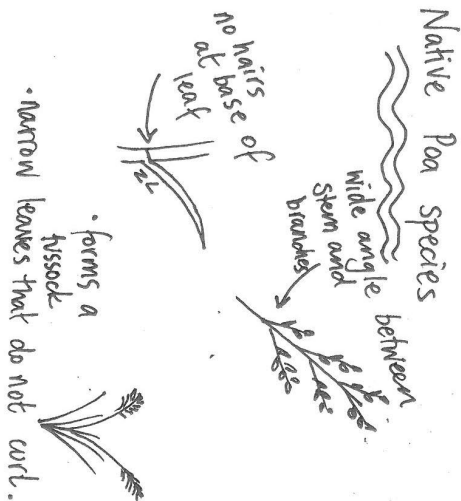
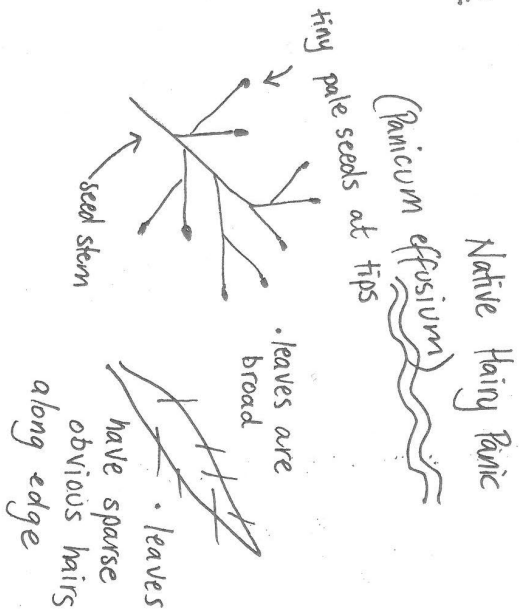


Figure 11 (ZL)

## Blackberry

### *Rubus anglocandicans*

**Description:** Rambling plant with prominent thorns on square stems. Quickly forms dense clumps (Figure 13), particularly along water courses. Can root from stem tips. Also spreads from seed carried by birds eating the berries, and by water movement. Is an excellent soil stabiliser, so consider replacement plants if removing large patches manually. The berries (Figure 12) provide food for introduced animals and Currawongs year round, and the thickets provide shelter for rabbits and foxes.



Figure 12 (MB) Blackberry fruit



Figure 13 (MS) Blackberry growth habit

**Environmental impact:** Massive. Also a Weed Of National Significance (WONS). It is a transformer species

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** Any new small plants appearing. In good patches. In all reserves.

**Control method:**

- Cut stump and dab with one part Glyphosate 360 to one part water. Ensure cut stump is at or below ground level to ensure all canes are treated, and herbicide is applied within 15 seconds. This method should only be attempted where the plants are small and have few stems. Be sure to clear thoroughly around the base of the plant so that you can see all stems. Some will grow off to the side and be hard to see, but it is very important to treat all of them
- Stem scrape and dab with one part Glyphosate 360 to one part water

- Spot spray small plants with Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.1 g/L water plus 1-2 ml/L surfactant). Do not use Glyphosate as it causes excessive off-target damage to surrounding grasses and sedges when sprayed on blackberry thickets. Spraying is the most effective method for blackberry, and should be done when the plants are actively growing and have new growth. Retreatment within 12 months may be necessary. Larger clumps can be mapped on Field Maps app, communicated to PCS, and are then best left to PCS/contractors for spraying
- Brush-cutting followed by spraying regrowth the following year is also effective. This can reduce spray drift. Note that, at time of writing, brush-cutting must only be done by PCS/TCCS staff
- Manual removal including entire root. Note that follow up treatment will be needed for re-sprouting stems. Manual removal should only be used for very small new seedlings, as it is very hard to remove the roots, and can lead to more re-growth
- Note that Blackberry was previously considered to be part of the *Rubus fruticosus* complex or aggregate. *Rubus anglocandicans* is the most widespread and common taxon within that complex and the name now applied to Blackberry in the ACT and NSW
- Wear long leather gloves, a disposable or half mask respirator and eye protection when spraying. Wear gloves and eye protection when treating blackberry as the thorny stems may fling around

**Time to control:** Cut stump and manual any time, spray when actively growing between October-April, however DO NOT spray when fruiting as many people pick blackberries to eat

**Follow up:** Annually for a number of years

**Similar species:** Native raspberry. Leaves of blackberry are darker and larger, stems of blackberry square in cross section and much sturdier with bigger thorns. Blackberry stems readily root from the end of stems to form new plants

## Briar Rose/Sweet Briar

### *Rosa rubiginosa*

**Description:** Woody deciduous perennial plant with upright or scrambling thorny stems forming dense clumps from suckers over years (*Figure 14*). The leaves are pale green with 5-7 oval leaflets and toothed edges (*Figure 15*). Flowers are a simple pink rose with yellow centres to 4 cm across (*Figure 16*), followed by bright red fleshy rosehips to 2 cm wide (*Figure 15*). These are attractive to birds, which then spread the seeds. Spreads through reserves and disturbed areas



Figure 14 (JW) Growth Pattern of Briar Rose



Figure 15 (MS) Fruit of Briar Rose



Figure 16 (MS) Flower of Briar Rose

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** Most reserve areas. Consider what other plants are around to provide alternative habitat for small birds. Removed stems can provide suitable protection from kangaroo grazing for desired plants.

**Control method:**

- Cut stump with one part Glyphosate 360 to one part water. Cut stem close to ground (15 cm or lower) and apply herbicide within 15 seconds using dabber.

- Clear around the base of the plant before starting to ensure you can see and cut all the stems - they can easily grow sideways and be missed
- Dig out very small plants, ensuring all roots are removed, as plants re-sprout from suckers
- Spot spray with Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.1 g/L water plus 1-2 ml/L surfactant)

**Time to control:** Cut stump only when plant is actively growing and has green leaves. This plant is deciduous, and cutting during winter or without herbicide results in vigorous re-sprouting. Late summer drought may also be a poor time to treat, even when plants still have leaves. Spot spray when actively growing. Grub out small plants any time

**Similar species:** Native Raspberry, Blackberry. The similar exotic plant Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*) should be treated the same way. *Rosa* is a much more upright plant, with brighter green leaves and distinctive red 'rosehips'

## Bridal Creeper/Florist's Smilax

### *Asparagus asparagoides*

**Description:** Vine with shiny mid-green leaves on wiry stems, pointed at the tips and broad at the stem (*Figure 17*). The berries ripen to a dark red and are fleshy to about 1 cm diameter. This vine quickly smothers other plants, and can re-shoot from the fat root tubers (*Figure 18*), which out-compete native plants. It is spread by birds and other animals eating the seeds and by dumped garden waste. It is not yet widespread in the ACT, so any sightings should be dealt with promptly, and reported to PCS/TCCS for treatment.



*Figure 17 (JDR) Leaves of Bridal Creeper*



*Figure 18 (BR) Bridal Creeper tubers*

**Environmental impact:** Massive. It is also a Weed of National Significance

Risk Priority: Extreme

**Situation in which to control:** Any plants identified should be treated immediately

Control method:

- Spray with Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.1 g/L plus 1 ml surfactant)
- If plants are small, then manual removal may be possible if all the tubers are carefully removed and disposed of off site

**Time to control:** Spray in spring. Manual removal any time

**Follow up:** Check annually for several years in case there is re-growth from roots.

**Similar species:** None in the ACT

## Broad-leaved Privet/Large-leaved Privet

### *Ligustrum lucidum*

**Description:** Small tree, single or multi-stemmed (*Figure 19*), with glossy dark green oval leaves and smooth bark. The flowers are white, tubular in pyramidal clusters to 20 cm long at ends of branches (*Figure 20, Figure 21*), and followed by prolific small black berries (*Figure 22*) to 8 mm in autumn. The berries are very attractive to birds, including overwintering Currawongs, who spread the seed and are also a threat to small birds. Privets do not appear to provide useful habitat or nesting sites for native animals. Seedlings often appear in clumps under trees. Privet also crowds and shades out other plants in moist gullies. It flourishes in many suburban Canberra gardens. Privets thrive in higher nutrient environments.



*Figure 19 (JW) Growth habit of Privet*



*Figure 20 (JW) Flowers of Privet*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** Isolated plants, in gullies and working out from good patches. Aim to remove plants of flowering/seed bearing age first

**Similar species:** Small-leaved privet, whose leaves are a lighter green, smaller and sometimes with a frilly edge. Treat the same way. May also be confused with Kurrajong saplings, partly because they often germinate in the same spots; under large trees. Both have shiny green leaves, but Kurrajongs are a lighter green, and often variable shaped, and the stem/trunk is more tan in colour. When weeding a dense patch it is good to keep an eye out for Kurrajong, as they can be left to grow on and replace the privet

**Control method:**

- Hand pulling of seedlings from moist soil
- Cut stump using Glyphosate 360 (half Glyphosate half water), ensuring stump is dabbed within 15 seconds if possible. Smaller stems can be cut with loppers close to ground, larger trees will need to be sawn with a handsaw. When applying herbicide to the stump of larger stems, be sure to concentrate around the area closest to the bark, as this is the growing part which will absorb the herbicide
- Drill and fill using neat Glyphosate 360
- If removing dense patches there will be disturbance and bare patches, making follow up important

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Return annually to remove emerging seedlings, and check for suckering from around cut stems. This is usually minimal if done correctly. For large infestations consider removing gradually and either planting or allowing replacement plants to grow



Figure 21 (MB) Unripe fruit of Privet

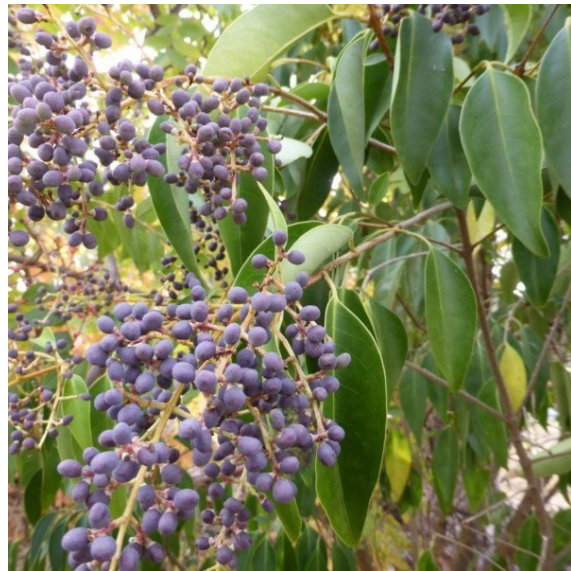


Figure 22 (MS) Ripe fruit of Privet



## Broom/Scotch Broom/English Broom

### *Cytisus scoparius*

**Description:** Upright evergreen shrub from 1- 4 m (*Figure 23*) with mid green trifoliate leaves, yellow pea like flowers (*Figure 24, Figure 25*) followed by hairy pods. They can be hard to differentiate from other broom species, however they are all weeds to be controlled. Broom is spread by machinery and birds and can germinate in large numbers after disturbance.



*Figure 23 (LH) Growth Habit of Broom*



*Figure 24 (NJ) Flower of Broom*



*Figure 25 (RP) Flower of Broom*

**Environmental impact:** Massive. It is a Weed of National Significance (WONS). It is a transformer species

**Risk Priority:** Extreme

**Situation in which to control:** There are currently not large infestations in Canberra Nature Park, therefore important to remove any plant immediately. Plants can produce large amounts of seed which remain in the soil for many years

**Similar species:** Other brooms such as Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*), Madeira Broom (*Genista stenopetala*), Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) and

coloured cultivars (also weeds and treat similarly). Native shrubs in the pea family have flowers with colours other than yellow present, and do not have hairy pods

**Control method:**

- Hand pull small plants (often found around mature plants)
- Cut and dab using one part Glyphosate to one part water, applying herbicide within 15 seconds

Time to control: Year round

**Follow up:** Return to site each year for several years to check for emergent seedlings as the seed soil bank is long-lived. New plants take two years to flower and set seed

## Cape Broom/Montpellier Broom

### *Genista monspessulana*

**Description:** Upright shrub (*Figure 26*) with mid green trifoliate leaves (*Figure 28* (SB) Leaves of Cape Broom), beautiful bright yellow flowers (*Figure 27*) followed by hairy pods. It is spread by machinery and birds, and can germinate in large numbers after disturbance.



*Figure 26 (SB) Growth habit of Cape Broom*



*Figure 27 (VK) Flowers of Cape Broom*



*Figure 28 (SB) Leaves of Cape Broom*

**Environmental impact:** Major. It is a Weed of National Significance (WONS). It is a transformer species

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** There are currently not large infestations in Canberra Nature Park, therefore important to remove any plant immediately. Plants can produce large amounts of seed which remain in the soil for many years

**Similar species:** Other brooms such as Scotch or English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Madeira Broom (*Genista stenopetala*), Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) and coloured cultivars (also weeds and treat similarly). Native shrubs in the pea family have flowers with

colours other than yellow present, and do not have hairy pods

**Control method:**

- Hand pull small plants (often found around mature plants)
- Cut and dab using one part Glyphosate 360 to one part water, applying herbicide within 15 seconds

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Return to site each year for several years to check for emergent seedlings as the seed soil bank is long lived. New plants take two years to flower and set seed

## Chilean Needlegrass

### *Nassella neesiana*

**Description:** Perennial tufted grass up to 80cm. It has deep green leaves to 20 cm long and 3 mm wide (*Figure 29*) which are usually flat, and an upper surface which is coarsely hairy and strongly ribbed. The 'lip test' can be useful – when the leaf is gently rubbed between lips it feels very rough. The seedheads are open and drooping to 40 cm long (*Figure 30*). The seeds have a corona at the base, which is a little raised ring around the stem (*Figure 31*). There is also a small tuft of hair at the junction of leaf blade and leaf sheath.

This weed tends to grow in wetter areas, but the plant is very hardy and can survive drought. Can have hidden flowers and seeds at the base of the plant.



*Figure 29 (GR) Growth habit of Chilean Needlegrass*



*Figure 30 (MB) Seed heads of Chilean Needlegrass*

**Environmental impact:** Massive. This is a WONS (Weed of National Significance), A transformer species.

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** Any outbreak in reserve, around edges of reserves where entry is likely

**Control method:**

- Chip out small infestations and bag and remove plants from site, as plants can seed in first year, and may have hidden flowers. Dispose of in general waste, not green waste
- Spot spray with Glyphosate 360 at 10 ml/L and (optionally) 1 ml/L surfactant
- Slashing and burning are not useful

**Time to control:** Manual removal any time, but helpful to control when in flower to aid identification, but before seed set. Spot spraying best in winter, spring and autumn

**Follow up:** Annually for several years to check for seedlings. Note that every minute of work before treatment carefully clipping ripe seed heads and bagging for removal is time well spent. However, this is impractical for large infestations. In those cases, the location will need to be revisited for possible control each year for many years

**Similar species:** Distinguish from native Speargrasses, particularly *Austrostipa bigeniculata*. These lack a corona on the seed base (*Figure 33*).

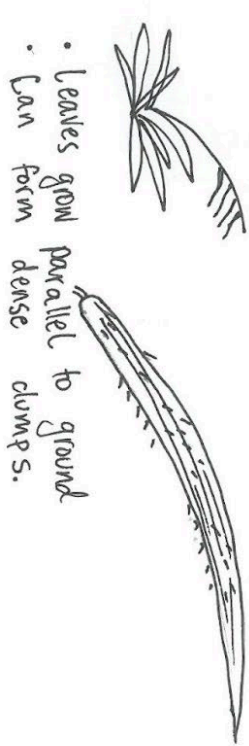


*Figure 31 (MB) Growth habit of Chilean Needlegrass*

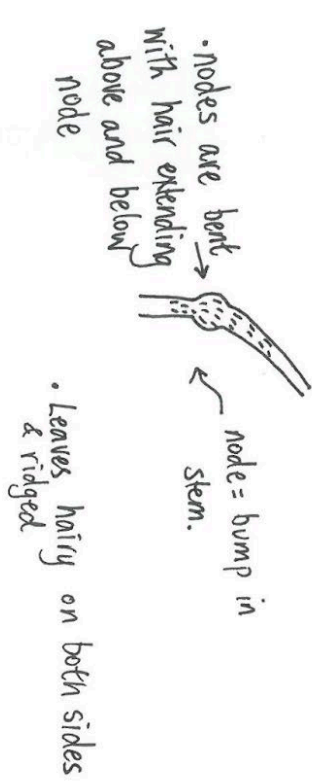


*Figure 32 (JL) Seeds of native Speargrass Austrostipa bigeniculata*

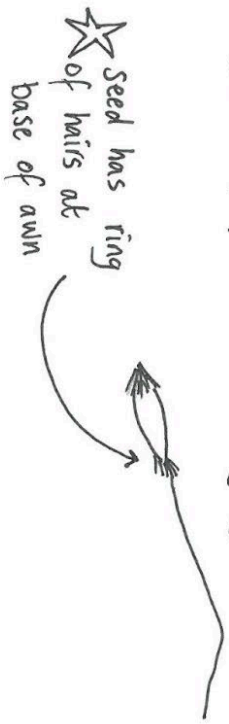
### Chilean Needlegrass Identification Tips



- leaves grow parallel to ground
- can form dense clumps.



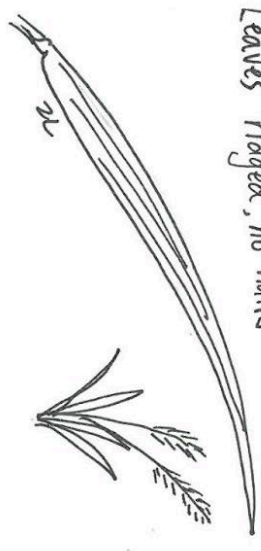
- nodes are bent with hair extending above and below node
- node = bump in stem.
- leaves hairy on both sides & ridged



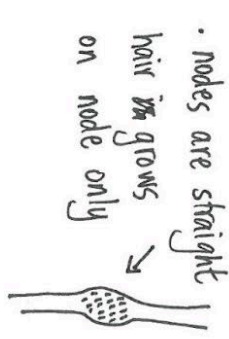
★ Seed has ring of hairs at base of awn

- Seed is purple or red when young

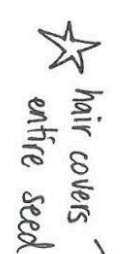
Chilean Needlegrass  
*(Nassella neesiana)*



- leaves ridged, no hairs



- nodes are straight hair grows on node only



★ hair covers entire seed

- Seed is brown or purple when young

Native Speargrass  
*(Austrostipa bigeniculata)*

Figure 33 (ZL)

## Chinese Privet/Small-leaved Privet

### *Ligustrum sinense*

**Description:** Small tree, single or multi-stemmed (*Figure 34*), with small bright to dark green leaves (*Figure 35*) and smooth bark. The flowers are white, tubular in pyramidal clusters to 20 cm long at ends of branches (*Figure 35*), which is followed by prolific small black berries up to 8 mm in autumn (*Figure 36*). The berries are attractive to birds. As mentioned elsewhere, they are one of the main sources of food for overwintering Currawongs, who spread the seed and are also a threat to small birds. Big groups of Currawongs can be seen feasting on seeding trees. Seedlings often appear in clumps under trees. Privets also crowd and shade out other plants in moist gullies. It also flourishes in many suburban Canberra gardens. Privets thrive in higher nutrient environments. Privets do not appear to provide useful habitat or nesting sites for native animals.



*Figure 34 (MS) Growth form of Small-leaved Privet*



*Figure 35 (MB) Flowers of Small-leaved Privet*

**Environmental impact:** Massive

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** Isolated plants, in gullies and working out from good patches. Aim to remove plants of flowering/seed bearing age first.

**Control method:**

- Hand pulling of seedlings from moist soil
- Cut stump using Glyphosate 360 (half Glyphosate half water), ensuring stump is cut within 15 seconds. Smaller stems can be cut with loppers close to ground, larger



trees will need to be sawn with a handsaw or mechanical saw. When applying the herbicide to



*Figure 36 (SB) Fruit of Small-leaved Privet*

the stump of larger stems, be sure to concentrate around the area closest to the bark, as this is the growing part which will absorb the herbicide

- Drill and fill using neat Glyphosate 360
- If removing dense patches there will be disturbance and bare patches, making follow up important

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Return annually to remove emerging seedlings, and check for suckering from around cut stems. This is usually minimal if done correctly.

For large infestations consider removing gradually and either planting or allowing replacement plants to grow

**Similar species:** Large-leaved privet, which has larger darker green leaves and is more common in Canberra, and is treated the same way

## Cobbler's Peg

*Bidens pilosa* var. *minor*

**Description:** A short-lived herbaceous plant with upright stems growing up to 1.8 m tall (*Figure 38*). Its stems are square in cross section and green to purplish in colour. Its paired leaves (2.5-13.5 cm long) have toothed margins and vary in nature depending on their position on the plant. They may be either oval in shape, deeply-lobed or once-compound with 3-7 leaflets. Its small flower-heads (5-15 mm across) have numerous tiny yellow tubular flowers in the centre (*Figure 37*) and sometimes also have some white petals 2-8 mm long. Its dark brown or black 'seeds' (4-16 mm long) are elongated in shape and topped with two or three barbed awns (1-4 mm long) (*Figure 37*). It is a prolific producer of seeds that stick to clothing and animal fur. Seeds are short lived and were found to survive for 3-4 years in the soil seedbank. Forms dense stands that cover large areas eliminating native vegetation (*Figure 38*)



*Figure 37 (SB) Flowers and seeds of Cobbler's Peg*



*Figure 38 (MB) Growth habit of Cobbler's Peg*

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** In good patches. Small infestations can get out of control in a few years

**Similar species:** Greater Beggar's Ticks (*Bidens subalternans* var. *subalternans*), also a weed, and may be treated the same way

**Control method:**

- Spot spray with Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced) (3-6 ml/L water plus 1 ml/L surfactant), or Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.1 g/L plus 1 ml/L surfactant)
- Manual removal for small areas
- Plants with seed heads should be piled to avoid seed spread or cut and bag seed heads. Seed life is short

**Time to control:** Manual removal before plants go to seed if possible. Spot spray while actively growing.

**Follow up:** Every 6 months for several years

## Cootamundra Wattle

### *Acacia baileyana*

**Description:** A shrub or small tree growing 4-8 m high (*Figure 39*). The leaves are silvery-blue to blue-grey in colour and 'feathery' or 'fern like' in appearance, bipinnate (twice divided) (*Figure 40*). The flowers are bright yellow, fluffy and fragrant (*Figure 40*). It flowers from winter to early spring. Seedpods are 1 cm wide and 5 cm long, green/purple when fresh and mature to brown with black seeds inside. Bark is brown and rough at base



*Figure 39 (VK) Growth form of Cootamundra Wattle*



*Figure 40 (JW) Flowers and leaves of Cootamundra Wattle*

**Environmental impact:** Major. Considered a transformer species

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** All small infestations in CNP

**Control methods:**

- Hand pull seedlings
- Cut larger plants at ground level (no herbicide needed)

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Seed can remain viable in the ground for long periods of time, so regular monitoring and removal of seedlings will be necessary. Fire and disturbance can trigger the seedlings to germinate, so monitor areas after fire or other disturbance.

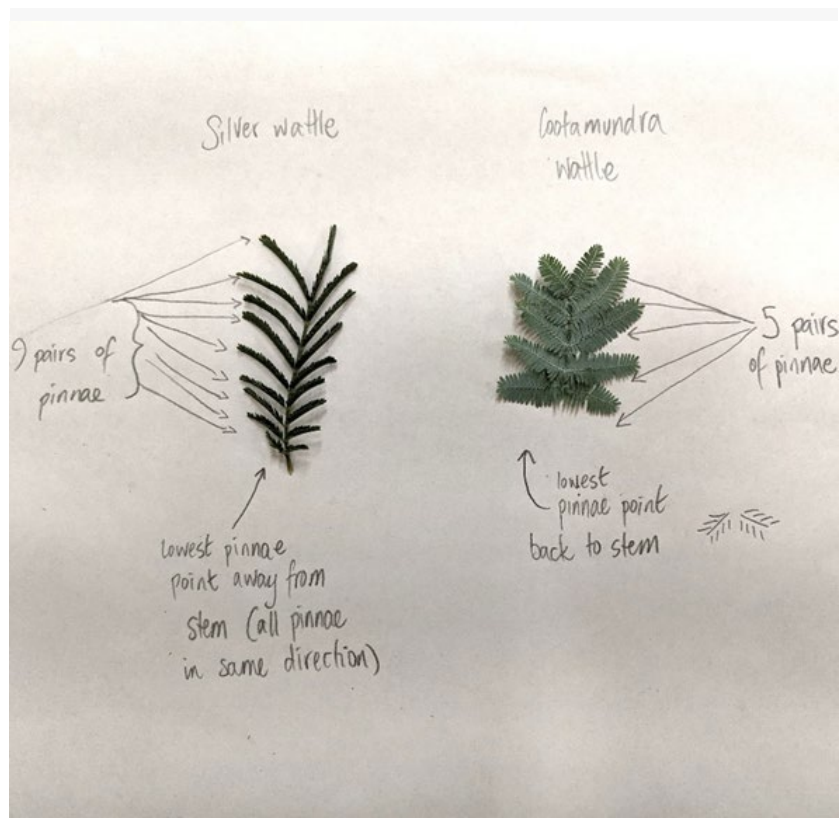


Figure 41 (ZL) Comparison between Cootamundra Wattle and Silver Wattle



Figure 42 (JW) Leaves and flowers of Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata*

**Similar species:** May be mistaken for Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) (Figure 42), however the easiest way to tell the difference is in the leaves. The bipinnate leaves of Cootamundra Wattle have 3-5 pairs of pinnae (feathery leaves branching off the stem)(Figure 41Error! Reference source not found.), the lowest pair is shorter, swept back and embraces the stem to which the leaf is attached. The bipinnate leaves of Silver Wattle have 8-20 pairs of pinnae attached to the leaf stem and the lowest pair points away from the stem (Error! Reference source not found.). Note that these two species can hybridise (cross with each other), and the leaves of these plants are intermediate between the parents. It is good to remove these as well.

## Cotoneaster/Large-leaved Cotoneaster

### *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*

**Description:** Leggy evergreen prostrate or large bush to small tree with multiple stems (*Figure 43*). The round or oval leaves are smooth and olive green above, white and hairy underneath (*Figure 44*). The flowers are cream, white or pinkish (*Figure 45*), followed by bright red berries to 6 mm in autumn (*Figure 44*). The berries are very attractive to currawongs, who spread the seed. The berry bearing weeds are one of the winter food sources which allow currawongs to stay in the ACT all year round, and pose a threat to nesting small birds, whose nestlings they eat. The berries can, however, also provide food for Gang-gang cockatoos.

Consider replacing with species of *Acacia*, *Callitris* or *Allocasuarina*. Cotoneaster is widespread in suburban gardens in Canberra.



Figure 43 (TP) Cotoneaster growth habit



Figure 44 (DR) Leaves and fruit of Cotoneaster



Figure 45 (MS) *Cotoneaster* Flowers

- Grub out very small plants, ensuring all roots are removed, as plants re-sprout from suckers

**Time to control:** All year round, but herbicide uptake less effective in winter

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** Control seed bearing specimens, and all small plants as they emerge

**Similar species:** Other Cotoneaster species such as Silver-leaved Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster pannosus*) and *Cotoneaster rotundifolius*, which are treated the same way

**Control method:**

- Cut stump with Glyphosate 360 (half and half with water). Cut stem close to ground (15 cm or lower) and apply herbicide within 15 seconds using dabber.

## Egg-leaf Spurge/Caustic Weed

### *Euphorbia oblongata*

**Description:** Perennial forb to 1m (*Figure 46*). Flowerhead is a yellowish/green (*Figure 47*). It can sucker from its fibrous root system. One of a number of this genus which are sold in nurseries for suburban gardens and then pose a threat to bushland. Likely to take off if dumped, and in moister areas. Monitor for new species and report via Canberra Nature Map or iNaturalist. Note that a number of *Euphorbia* species have milky sap which can irritate skin and eyes, and may cause breathing difficulties, so it is important to wear long sleeves, gloves and eye protection



*Figure 46 (MS) Spurge growth habit*



*Figure 47 (AC) Spurge leaves and flowers*



*Figure 48 (MS) Spurge fruit and leaves*

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** New infestations as soon as they are spotted

**Control method:**

- Hand pull when soil is moist, ensuring all the roots come out. Pile plants if flower or seed head present. A trowel or hand mattock may be useful for easing roots out
- Spot spray with Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced) (3-6 ml/L water plus 1 ml/L surfactant), or Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg



(Brushoff) (0.1 g/L plus 1 ml/L surfactant)

**Time to control:** Preferably before seed set and when soil is moist. Spot spray all seasons except winter

**Follow up:** Annually for three years

**Similar species:** Other exotic Euphorbias such as Caper Spurge (*Euphorbia lathyris*), which can be treated similarly. There are native Euphorbias, but they are low to the ground and unlikely to be mistaken



Figure 49 (MS) Spurge growth habit

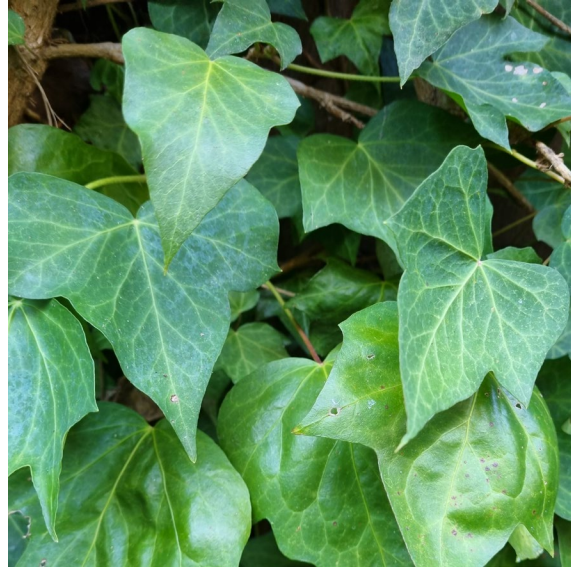
## English Ivy

*Hedera helix*

**Description:** Dark green evergreen climber which forms dense mats (*Figure 50*) which smother all other vegetation. Mature plants send long runners up trees from which it then flowers, producing black berries (*Figure 52*) eaten and spread by Currawongs and other birds. It often germinates in shady spots and moist gullies, where it is tough and can survive extended drought, springing to growth in wet years. A common garden plant and escapee.



*Figure 50 (SB) Ivy growth habit*



*Figure 51 (VK) Ivy leaves*



*Figure 52 (SR) Berries of Ivy*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** New infestations as soon as they are spotted

**Control method:**

- Manual removal. This is easy when plants are small. Once dense mats are formed a mattock is required to dig down and remove roots. Long stems are sent out very close to the ground which can take root at each leaf node. Care should be taken to ensure stems are followed and removed, otherwise they will break off and re-sprout.

- Mulching. Layer cardboard and several inches of mulch such as woodchips. This needs to be in place for at least two seasons.
- Cut or whipper-snip plant close to ground and paint the cut stems with Glyphosate 360 1:1. Spraying leaves may not be very effective as the leaves have a waxy coating making herbicide penetration difficult. Also consider non-target species in vicinity, especially any trees upon which the ivy is growing, as spraying the trunk may kill these. Note that currently PCS staff will have to operate whipper-snipper as PCS volunteers are not allowed.
- Depending on the size of the patch a mix of above methods may be needed. Take care to save any existing desirable plants, and consider sowing seed into remaining bare ground

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Several times in following season; thereafter an annual check

**Similar species:** No other species can be mistaken for Ivy

## Firethorns/Orange Firethorn/Nepal Firethorn/Red Firethorn

*Pyracantha* spp.

**Description:** An evergreen, rounded, multi-stemmed spiny shrub to 3 m (*Figure 53*) with small, oblong, glossy green or grey-ish leaves (*Figure 55*) to 5 cm and small creamy flowers followed by bright yellow, orange or red berries (*Figure 54*) to 6 mm wide. Plant suckers from base to form a thicket and are spread by seed carried by birds and other animals. Note that the thickets may be providing habitat for nesting birds.



Figure 53 (KL) Firethorn growth habit



Figure 54 (SB) Firethorn leaves and berries



Figure 55 (SB) Firethorn leaves

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** In good areas, in gullies

**Similar species:** There are a number of pyracantha species, all of which are environmental weeds and may be treated the same way

**Control method:**

- hand pull very small seedlings, which often pop up in shady areas in gullies or under mature trees
- cut and dab stems with 1 part Glyphosate 360 to 1 part water,

applying herbicide within 15 seconds of cutting stem close to ground

**Time to control:** Year round, but check for nesting birds

**Follow up:** Annually, to check for re-growth and emerging seedlings

## Fireweed

### *Senecio madagascariensis*

**Description:** Annual or biennial plant up to 60 cm (*Figure 56*) with narrow bright green fleshy leaves and bright yellow daisy flowers generally with 13 petals (*Figure 57*) in clusters on the end of stems. Plants are spread via seed in the wind or attached to people and other animals or machinery. It is poisonous and a WONS (Weed of National Significance).



*Figure 56 (MS) Fireweed growth habit*



*Figure 57 (MS) Fireweed flower*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** All occurrences. This is not a widespread weed in the ACT, and should therefore be immediately removed

**Similar species:** Native Highland Groundsel (*Senecio pinnatifolius*) which has not been sighted in the ACT.

**Control method:**

- Hand pull including roots. Remove entire plant from site and dispose of in waste bin - not organic waste.

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Check control sites periodically for seedlings. Plants may flower within 6-10 weeks of germinating

## Gleditsia/Honey Locust/Thorny Locust

### *Gleditsia triacanthos*

**Description:** A popular garden tree, growing up to 20 m (*Figure 58*). It is deciduous, with bipinnate bright green leaves (*Figure 59*) turning yellow in autumn. Hanging creamy yellow flowers turn into long dark brown flattened pods (*Figure 60*). The tree also has distinct thorns growing from the trunk and limbs (*Figure 59*). The plant can form dense thickets.



Figure 58 (MS) Honey Locust growth habit



Figure 59 (MB) Honey Locust leaves and thorn



Figure 60 (MB) Honey Locust pods

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** All occurrences in CNP

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control method:**

- Cut and dab with Glyphosate 360 (one part Glyphosate to one part water) when actively growing, applying herbicide within 15 seconds

**Time to control:** Spring, summer

**Follow up:** Following season, to check for re-growth

## Hawthorn

### *Crataegus monogyna*

**Description:** Deciduous large bush or small tree, generally with single trunk. The clustered white or pink flowers (*Figure 61*) are followed by round, bright orange/red berries to 12 mm (*Figure 62*) and savage thorns (*Error! Reference source not found.*). The leaves are green and divided into 3-7 major lobes, and then may be further divided into minor lobes (*Figure 62*). Very tough and long lived plant. Like other woody weeds with attractive fruit, seedlings often germinate under trees, where birds have perched and pooped out the seeds. Can also sucker along disturbed roots



*Figure 61 (JDR) Hawthorn flowers and leaves*



*Figure 62 (MS) Hawthorn berries*



*Figure 63 (SG) Hawthorn leaves and thorns*

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** Remove mature seedbearing plants

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control method:**

- Check mature plants for actively nesting birds before treatment
- Wear gloves, preferable welders gloves, and eye protection when treating, due to thorns



- Cut stump with Glyphosate 360 (half and half with water). Cut stem close to ground (15 cm or lower) and apply herbicide within 15 seconds using dabber. Larger specimens will need to be sawn
- Drill and fill using neat Glyphosate 360. This allows tree to remain standing and provide habitat if needed
- Spot spray with Brushoff (0.1 g/L water plus 1ml/L surfactant)
- Hand pull small seedlings. Note that they have a long taproot and when soil is dry even tiny seedlings are almost impossible to pull out

**Time to control:** When plants are actively growing, most likely from October to March/April

**Follow up:** Annually to check for any suckering (usually not much) and seedlings emerging from remaining seedbank

## Horehound

### *Marrubium vulgare*

**Description:** A bushy flowering plant in the mint family (Lamiaceae) growing to a height of about 45-80 cm depending on growing conditions (*Figure 64*). It naturally occurs in Europe and North Africa but has become naturalised in most of the northern hemisphere. It is a herbaceous perennial with square stems and grey leaves 2-5 cm long and similar in shape to a crinkled mint leaf covered in short downy hairs (*Figure 64, Figure 66*). Small white flowers grow in clusters appearing throughout summer (*Figure 66*). The seed capsules are 1-2 mm long and covered with hooks that easily attach to animal fur (*Figure 65*). The capsules contain 4 seeds. Mature plants can produce up to 20,000 seeds per year and these can survive 7-10 years in the soil.



*Figure 64 (JW) Horehound growth habit and leaves*



*Figure 65 (KC) Horehound seed heads*

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Low

**Situation in which to control:** When the horehound is increasing enough to reduce natural biodiversity.

**Similar species:** Stagger Weed (*Stachys arvensis*) but these are garden plants (also weeds therefore) and are unlikely to be found in any great quantity in our reserves and urban open spaces.

**Control method:**

- Hand pull small plant
- Chip out mature plants
- Spot spray with 2.7 ml/L of MCPA 750g/L (Agritone) and 1 ml/L surfactant



Figure 66 (MB) Horehound flowers

- Biological control methods have also been used. The horehound bug (*Agnoscelis rutila*) has been used in the past, but although they have been distributed across the ACT they did not provide a worthwhile control. Currently the horehound plume moth (*Wheelaria spilodactylus*) is used. It is host specific and the caterpillar which is hairy and green with a white stripe feeds on the tips of the horehound. This weakens the plant, reduces the numbers of flowers/seed produced, but does not eradicate it. On Canberra Nature Map, sightings of the moth or caterpillar have been recorded across the ACT.

**Time to control:** Manual removal in spring and early summer before seeds set. Spot spray in autumn

**Follow up:** Chip or hand pull regrowth regularly

## Japanese Honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*

**Description:** A vigorous climber and scrambler (*Figure 67*) which forms dense mats (*Figure 68*) which smother all other vegetation. It twines around trees and shrubs, as well as sending out long stems along the ground. Often in moist gullies. A garden escapee. May irritate skin.



*Figure 67 (MS) Honeysuckle growth habit*



*Figure 68 (CE-R) Honeysuckle leaves*



*Figure 69 (MB) Honeysuckle flowers*

**Environmental impact:** Major.

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** In high value gullies. As soon as plants are noticed

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control methods:**

- Manual removal. This requires careful attention to the long stems along the ground which root at nodes. Simply pulling the stems will break them off, where they continue to grow. Best to work systematically, using a trowel or mattock to loosen roots and then work along each stem ensuring it

- is all removed. Pile weeded parts elsewhere for visibility, making sure they cannot take root from the pile and start a new patch
- Cut stump with Glyphosate 360 (2 parts Glyphosate to 1 part water) within 15 seconds
  - Cut or whipper-snip plant close to ground, then return in two-three weeks to spot spray new shoots with Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.1-0.2 g/L water plus 1-2 ml/L surfactant) or Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced) (3 ml/L water plus 2 ml/L surfactant). Note that currently PCS staff will have to operate whipper-snipper as PCS volunteers are not allowed.
  - Depending on the size of the patch a mix of above methods may be needed. Take care to save any existing desirable plants, and consider sowing seed into remaining bare ground

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Return two or three times in following 6 months, then annually for three years

## Lavender/Spanish Lavender

### *Lavandula stoechas*

**Description:** Fragrant grey herbaceous perennial with purple flower spikes (Figure 70, Figure 71). Forms dense stands, particularly on sunny slopes, and is very hardy. Seedlings can survive for years, but spread only slowly from original patch



Figure 70 (WL) Spanish lavender growth habit



Figure 71 (MB) Spanish lavender flowers and leaves

**Environmental impact:** Data deficient, but an emerging weed in some reserves

**Risk Priority:** Medium-High

**Situation in which to control:** In habitat of threatened species, all scattered plants

**Similar species:** When not in flower can be mistaken for *Cassinia* spp and small plants for *Vittadinia* spp. A good method is to rub leaves between fingers, as the lavender smell is very distinctive. *Cassinias* have a strong smell too, but more like curry, and unlikely to be mistaken for lavender.

**Control method:**

- Manual removal. It is generally easy to pull by hand, or with the aid of mattock. Note that lavender cannot re-shoot from stem below last green growth, so can also be cut if plants are large and woody. Avoid soil disturbance. Make piles of the flowering and seed bearing plants to minimise seed spread. Sow seed or plant into larger remaining bare patches

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Twice yearly for the first year, then annually for 3-4 years. Can germinate prolifically from seed over several years. Avoid letting more plants set seed. This is relatively easy to time, as new plants take at least 6-12 months to get to flowering stage

## Mulleins/Verbascum

### *Verbascum* spp.

**Description:** A biennial plant with a large rosette of furry grey leaves (*Figure 73*) with a deep tap root and a tall flowering stalk (*Figure 72*), usually in the second season, although sometimes in the first. Yellow flowers appear progressively along the stalk, and the small poppy-like black seeds can remain in the dry stalks for many seasons. Seed is viable for many years. Mullein out-competes grasses and native forbs, and can adversely change the vegetation structure in Pink-tailed worm-lizard (PTWL) habitat.



*Figure 72 (AC) Verbascum growth and flowers*



*Figure 73 (VK) Verbascum leaves in rosette*

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Medium-High

**Situation in which to control:** In good patches, and in identified PTWL habitat

**Control method:**

- Chip while at rosette stage, ensuring root is severed about 2 cm below the growing plant. Chipping when plants are larger, or ready to send up a flower stalk is too difficult as the roots seem to get very tough. Try to minimise soil disturbance. Pile plants in heaps
- Spot spray at small rosette stage with Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.05 g/L water plus 1 ml/L surfactant)
- Dab small rosettes with Glyphosate 360 (10-15 ml/L). Ensure you dab firmly 4-5 times, pushing past the dense hairs on the leaves
- Hand pull plants when flower stalk emerges, in moist conditions. If feasible, drop stalks with potential seed vertically into a bag and remove. Otherwise pile all plants

with flowers or seeds to minimise seed spread. Removal from site would be best but not practical for larger numbers

- Cut seed stalks at ground level in late summer (January/February) and pile to control seed spread, or if a small number bag and remove from site. The timing is important with this method. The plants are biennial, so will not send up another flower stalk if done after flowering has finished. If using this method while flower stalk still green and young, the plant will stalk again (usually with multiple stalks). It is necessary to kill the plant by spraying, dabbing or grubbing.

**Time to control:**

- Year round, depending on variables mentioned above

**Follow up:**

- Return to controlled area every 6 months for three years to remove new plants, or those which have been missed; thereafter occasional patrols are sufficient

**Similar species:** *Verbascum virgatum* (Figure 74) and *V. blattaria* (Figure 75) have a similar tall flowering stalk and may be treated in the same way



Figure 74 (DR) *Verbascum virgatum*



Figure 75 (MS) *Verbascum blattaria*



Figure 76 (MB) *Verbascum thapsus*



## Olive/African Olive

### *Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata*

**Description:** Graceful, dense, branched, evergreen, bush or small tree (*Figure 77*) with pale bark and leaves lighter coloured underneath (*Figure 78*). It can quickly form dense thickets which out-compete other plants. It spreads by seed and also suckers when roots are damaged.



*Figure 77 (MS) Olive growth*



*Figure 78 (MS) Olive leaves and fruit*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** All individual plants, as it is not widespread in Canberra Nature Parks

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control method:**

- Hand pull seedlings and young plants
- Cut and dab using 1 part Glyphosate 360 to 1.5 parts water within 15 seconds
- Drill and fill using 1 part Glyphosate 360 to 1.5 parts water within 15 seconds

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Return to remove emerging seedlings, and check for suckering from around cut stems. This is usually minimal if done correctly.

## Paterson's Curse and Viper's Bugloss

*Echium plantagineum* and *Echium vulgare*

**Description:** Paterson's Curse is an annual herb with very hairy almost prickly stems and bright purple flowers (*Figure 79, Figure 81*) which appear progressively along the stems. Its early growth at the rosette stage (*Figure 80*) means that it can quickly out compete more desirable species. It spreads by seed, and can take hold in bare areas.



*Figure 79 (MS) Paterson's Curse flowers*



*Figure 80 (MS) Paterson's Curse rosette of young leaves*

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** In good areas

**Similar species:** Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) (*Figure 81*) which is also a weed and can be treated the same way. When at the rosette stage may also be mistaken for other rosette forming plants, like the native Bear's Ears (*Cymbonotus lawsonianus*) and Austral Bear's Ears (*Cymbonotus preissianus*). Note that the Bear's Ears (*Figure 82* next to *Echium*) has broader notched leaves and a bright yellow daisy flower.



Figure 81 (MF) *Echium vulgare*



Figure 82 (VK) -*Echium* spp. growing below *Cymbonotus preissianus* (Native Bear's Ears)



Figure 83 (SB) *Echium plantagineum*

#### Control method:

- Hand weed small areas or individual plants. Plants do not re-sprout from small pieces of root remaining in the soil. If plant is in flower ensure plants are piled to reduce seed spread. Seed can continue to develop after plant is removed from soil
- Spot spray with Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.05 g/L water plus 1 ml/L surfactant) or MCPA 750 g/L (Agritone) (2.7 ml/L plus 1 ml/L surfactant). These are selective broad leaved herbicides and preferred over Glyphosate 360
- There are a number of biological controls in use. Several insects all attack all stages of Paterson's curse. Leaf mining moth (*Dialectica scariella*), Crown weevil (*Mogulones larvatus*), Root weevil (*Mogulones geographicus*), two flea beetles feed on the leaves (*Logitarsus aeneus*) and (*Logitarsus echii*) and Pollen beetle (*Meligethes planiusculus*).

**Time to control:** When actively growing

**Follow up:** Regular checking of treated site, particularly after good rain

## Periwinkle/Blue Periwinkle/Greater Periwinkle

### *Vinca major*

**Description:** Spreading vine with rounded leaves (*Figure 84*) and blue flowers (*Figure 85*) in spring. Smothers all plants in its path. It is a common garden plant which may be dumped in reserve areas by residents. It prefers moist and shady areas. Its root system is extensive and difficult to remove. The plant can spread vegetatively (runners lying on the ground can re-grow) and by seed.



*Figure 84 (SB) Vinca growth*



*Figure 85 (SB) Vinca flower*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** Best removed at a young stage

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control method:**

- Spray with Glyphosate 360 (20 ml/L water plus 2 ml/L surfactant), Metsulfuron Methyl 600 g/kg (Brushoff) (0.1-0.2 g/L water plus 2 ml/L surfactant) or Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced) (3-6 ml/L water plus 2 ml/L surfactant). The leaves are waxy, and this may affect penetration of the herbicide (hence using 2 ml/L surfactant as opposed to 1 ml/L). If possible slash or mow then spray re-growth as above. Note that PCS staff will need to operate any power tools.
- Cut to near ground and dab cut stems within 15 seconds with 1 part Glyphosate 360 to 3 parts water
- Dig plants and mulch very thickly to prevent re-growth

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Return in 3 months to control any re-growth. Try and ensure site is revegetated with suitable natives

## Prickly Pear

*Opuntia stricta* (consider also *O. elata*, *O. puberula*, *O. rufida*)

**Description:** Upright spreading cactus to 2 m with blue-grey egg shaped pads (*Figure 86*) instead of leaves and yellow flowers followed by fleshy red-ish fruits (*Figure 87*). The spines can penetrate clothing and footwear, so extreme care should be exercised. Pads can survive and take root where they lie after months and even years. Can form dense impenetrable infestations, and is spread by animals eating the fruit and dispersing seed which can last up to 15 years.



Figure 86 (JDR) Prickly Pear growth



Figure 87 (MB) Prickly Pear fruits

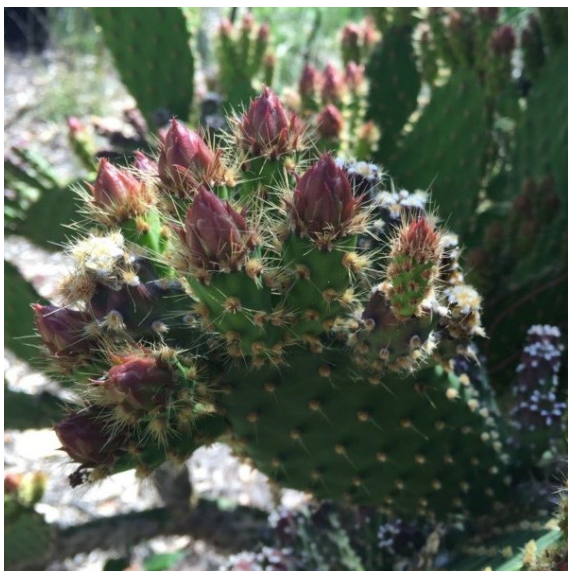


Figure 88 (JDR) Prickly pear flower buds

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** All individual plants before they set fruit and spread

**Similar species:** Indian Fig (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) which has few spines and is grown for its fruit by gardeners. Should still be removed from CNP

**Control method:**

- Manually remove small plants (exercising extreme care due to spines) and remove from site completely

- Spot spray plants with Glyphosate 360 (10 ml/L water plus 2 ml/L surfactant) ensuring whole plant is covered. Note that spraying with selective herbicide is recommended by NSW Weedwise, however none of those are approved for PCS volunteers.
- Drill and fill in the stem of big plants with large thick trunk.

Note: Do not cut down plant and leave pads on ground as they will simply form new plants, even after months and years

**Time to control:** Year-round.

**Follow up:** Following year to check for emerging seedlings or re-growth from dropped pads.

## Radiata Pine

### *Pinus radiata*

**Description:** Large upright evergreen pine tree (*Figure 89*) with dense bright to dark green foliage (*Figure 89, Figure 90*). Plantation escapee. Seeds are spread by cockatoos for whom the plant can be a source of food, and also by wind. The thick litter under radiata pines stops other plants germinating and changes the nutrient cycle



*Figure 89 (MS) Pine growth habit*



*Figure 90 (MS) Pine seedlings*



*Figure 91 (SB) Pine cone*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** Generally found as isolated individuals in CNP; remove

**Similar species:** Other pines, also non-native. Also distinguish from Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris endlicheri*), a local native, which does not have long needles or large cones

**Control method:**

- Hand pull very small seedlings in moist conditions
- Cut at base with loppers for small plants and saw for large plants. Mature trees need a chainsaw,

which PCS rangers can use. Application of herbicide not required as they cannot re-shoot, provided all twigs and green leaves are removed

**Time to control:** Year round

**Follow up:** Check for new seedlings periodically



## Serrated Tussock

### *Nassella trichotoma*

**Description:** A dense clumpy grass to 50 cm (*Figure 92, Figure 93*) with very fine leaves which are bright green when young, and always white at the very bottom. The leaves are serrated on the edges and feel rough to the touch. The whole plant looks pinkish/purple when flowering, and is bleached golden yellow in the frost. The flowerheads are distinctive with long drooping stems and pink seeds (*Figure 94*). One way to distinguish the non-flowering plant is by very gently peeling back a leaf from its stem and checking for a short white ligule (<2 mm), which is a protruding bump (*Figure 95, Figure 96*).

This plant is in the same genus as Chilean Needlegrass (*Nassella neesiana*), and is also highly invasive and hardy.



*Figure 92 (DS) Serrated Tussock growth habit*



*Figure 93 (DS) Serrated Tussock growth habit*



Figure 94 (JG) Seeds of Serrated Tussock



Figure 95 (MS) The ligule of Serrated Tussock

**Environmental impact:** Massive. Also a Weed of National Significance. A transformer species.

**Risk Priority:** Very High

**Situation in which to control:** Any outbreak in reserve, around edges of reserves where entry is likely

**Control method:**

- Chip out small infestations and bag and remove plants (including the soil around the roots which may have seeds) from site. If seed stalks remain attached, they easily pull from plant so should first be bagged. Also search nearby to collect and bag any detached seed stalks. Dispose of in general waste, not green waste
- Spot spray with Glyphosate 360 at 10 ml/L and 2 ml/L surfactant.

**Time to control:** Spray when plants are actively growing and not stressed, but helpful to control when in flower to aid identification, and before seed set. Mature plants with lots of dead material may prove difficult to kill with spray. Manual removal any time.

**Follow up:** Annually for several years to check for seedlings. Note that every minute of work before treatment carefully clipping ripe seed heads and bagging for removal is time well spent. However, this is impractical for large infestations. In those cases, the location will need to be revisited for possible control each year for many years

**Similar species:** Non-flowering plants can be mistaken for *Poa* spp., some wallaby grasses (*Rytidosperma* spp.) and Rough Speargrass (*Austrostipa scabra*). Serrated Tussock can be distinguished by the pale hairless ligule, serrated leaves (rough to touch) and the always white leaf base (Figure 96).

### Serrated Tussock Identification Tips

**Serrated Tussock**  
*Nassella trichotoma*

leaves have tiny hairs & will feel rough to touch (when you run your finger from tip to base).

no hairs at base of leaf

pale white ligule between stem & leaf

tiny seeds 1.5-2mm long

straight awn

Whispy seed heads

Seeds are reddish

Seeds are purple

Seeds are tiny

root system tough to pull out

no ligule!

leaves have tiny hairs & feel rough to touch

hairs at base of leaf

Native <sup>Rough</sup> Spear grass  
*Austrostipa scabra*

long seeds with sickle shaped awn (tail)

tussock forming

narrow, upright inflorescence

Figure 96 (ZL)

## St John's Wort

### *Hypericum perforatum*

**Description:** Perennial herb 30-120 cm high (*Figure 97*). Small bright leaves on a rosette which re-sprouts in spring, before sending up tall flower spikes with bright yellow flowers (*Figure 98*). Flower stalks turn brown when ripe. It spreads from prolific seed carried by animals including humans. One plant may produce thousands of seeds which last 10 years or more. It also suckers from an extensive root system. It can dominate grassland, particularly where there is not sufficient competing groundcover.



Figure 97 (AD) St John's Wort growth habit



Figure 98 (MS) St John's Wort flower

**Environmental impact:** Moderate

**Risk Priority:** Medium-high

**Situation in which to control:** In good patches. See decision tree (*Figure 100*) by Richard Milner below to evaluate where and how to control SJW.

**Similar species:** Native Small St John's Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*) doesn't have the miniscule black dots on the back of leaf margins, like the exotic SJW has. It is generally smaller and more delicate looking, with single flowers on the ends of the stems.



Figure 99 (TP) St John's Wort with *Chrysolina* beetle, a biological control agent

#### Control method:

- Spot spray with Fluroxypyr 333 g/L (Starane Advanced) (3 ml/L water plus 1 ml/L surfactant), coating entire plant for at least two consecutive years, as plants can survive due to extensive root system. It is important to avoid off target damage to surrounding native plants, which are needed to out compete new SJW seedlings. Starane Advanced is a selective herbicide which means that it will not kill grasses, but can kill other forbs. One group has found in germination trials that seeds from plants treated with Starane Advanced are not viable.
- Manual removal for small areas, provided all root stock is removed. This may be better attempted in moist conditions. Carefully use a weeder to work under the roots and gradually pull whole plant with all its roots out, rather than hand pulling from the top and breaking roots off. St John's Wort has one set of roots that grow vertically to about 1 m deep into the soil, and another set that grow horizontally and produce buds that form new aerial growth. Plants with brown seed heads should be removed or piled to avoid seed spread
- Some groups have success with seed head removal over a period of years, thus weakening the plant and preventing seed accumulation. Seed heads are cut with shears and bagged
- Biological control. Note that there are two *Chrysolina* beetle species (Figure 99) which can help to weaken plants and reduce seed production. Do not spray if beetle is present, and consider moving beetles into other patches.

**Time to control:** Spot spray when plant is flowering as it is easiest to see and most sensitive to the herbicide. Aim for 6-8 weeks after substantial rain when the flower is at half bud stage and half open flower stage. This may be November through January, but varies according to season. Late summer rain may result in a new flush of growth. Manual removal after rain when soil is loose enough to remove roots. Manual removal can also be easier in wooded areas with more leaf litter.

**Follow up:** Concentrate on the same patches, and return two to three times/season, as well as in following years

*St John's Wort decision tree*

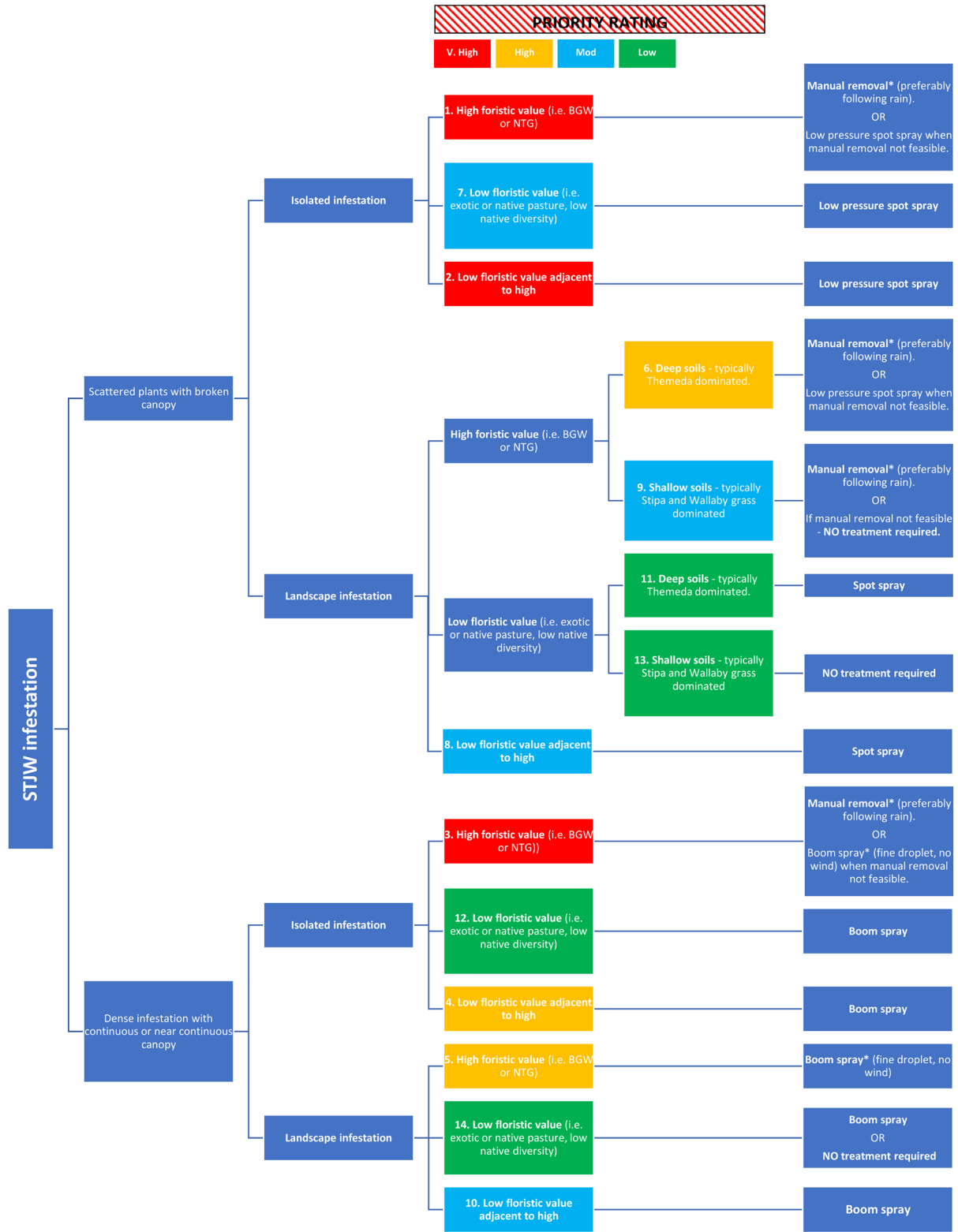


Figure 100- St John's Wort decision tree by Dr. Richard Milner, ACT Parks and Conservation Service

## Tree of Heaven

### *Ailanthus altissima*

**Description:** A deciduous tree or shrub. Dense suckering from its roots competes with other desirable plants. Can grow up to 20 m high. It has greyish bark, small white or yellow-green flowers in clusters (*Figure 101*), and dark green leaves that turn yellow in autumn (*Figure 102*). Seeds are winged and will travel by wind (*Figure 103*)



*Figure 101 (BR) Flowers of Tree of Heaven*



*Figure 102 (MS) Seedlings of Tree of Heaven*



*Figure 103 (MF) Winged seeds*

**Environmental impact:** Major

**Risk Priority:** High

**Situation in which to control:** When newly establishing in an area

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control method:**

- Dig or hand pull young plants
- Cut stump with Glyphosate 360 half and half with water applying herbicide within 15 seconds

**Time to control:** Hand pull any time when soil is moist, cut stump during growing season

**Follow up:** Annually, before new plants set seed

## Viburnum/Laurustrinus

### *Viburnum tinus*

**Description:** Bushy shrub with dull dark green leaves and cream flower head (*Figure 104*) followed by dark blue/black seeds (*Figure 105*). Very commonly used as a garden hedging plant in Canberra. Plants spread by seed via birds, but also sucker strongly from the base, or root from above ground stems (also called layering) forming thickets (*Figure 106*). Although it is listed as 'data deficient' on the Advisory list, Park Care groups have noticed it germinating freely in nature parks. Note also that CNM has labelled this a sleeper weed, and urges everyone to report sightings.



Figure 104 (MS) *Viburnum* flowers



Figure 105 (MF) Ripe fruit of *Viburnum*

**Environmental impact:** Data deficient

**Risk Priority:** Moderate

**Situation in which to control:** All new appearances, individual mature plants

**Similar species:** Nil

**Control method:**

- Hand pull seedlings
- Cut and dab mature plants with one part Glyphosate 360 to one part water. Mature plants will often have many stems, and care needs to be taken to work through all the stems, cutting close to the ground and applying herbicide within 15 seconds. Remove cut stems from work area to ensure all have been removed. Smaller surrounding stems can be pulled out by the roots with the aid of a hand mattock.

**Time to control:** Year round





Figure 106 (VK) *Viburnum* growth form



Figure 107 (KC) Leaves and buds of *Viburnum*

**Follow up:** Return to check mature plants 6 months after initial cut and dab to control suckers which can appear around mature cut stems, and from remaining underground roots, even with proper treatment.

## **Additional weeds to keep an eye out for, but with no individual profile**

There are many weeds and potential weeds in our urban bushland and nature reserves. Below is a more extensive list of plants that environmental volunteers have identified as being a problem in the reserves with which they are familiar. Depending on the situation they may or may not be worth treating. For example, in a 'good' patch, you may want to remove more weeds than in other areas. Removing individual or outlier weeds in these areas may prevent more serious incursions of this weed.

Observant monitoring of the weeds (map with the Field Maps app) listed below, might reveal that some of them have rapidly spread, or are impacting adversely on a patch with high biodiversity, in which case action is warranted. What is true is that quickly removing a new incursion whilst it is small is easier than waiting till it has a real foothold. There will always be more new weed incursions, from gardens, from the result of changing climatic conditions and through disturbance. Volunteers are often best placed to detect new incursions, as they may be very familiar with their local area, and notice any changes. Some 'environmental impacts' may appear to be 'moderate', with a species not having spread much in ten years, but some species have been known to rapidly spread after a non-threatening beginning, such as lavender and mulleins. Note that Canberra Nature Map urges everyone to report some of the 'sleeper' weeds in this table, as they are still sold commercially, and thorough mapping is useful to assess spread.

Use the resources suggested in this manual to positively identify plants as weeds before treating. Photos have not been included for this second list. A quick internet search under the scientific name using one of the resources listed in this manual will provide photos of the weed in question. Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Some of the weeds listed below are easy to remove, using the methods described at the beginning of the manual. Where practical, the weed control method is suggested in the fourth column. The priority assessment given below comes from the [ACT Advisory list of naturalised alien plants - species assessment](#). Environmental impact is not included due to a lack of data.

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Agapanthus</b>	<i>Agapanthus praecox</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	High	Dig out plants before flowering/seeding. Note: CNM has labelled this a sleeper weed, and urges everyone to report sightings
<b>Amaranths</b> – Redroot Amaranth – Pigweed, Stiff Tumbleweed – Powell’s Amaranth	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i> <i>Amaranthus albus</i> <i>Amaranthus powellii</i>	Low Moderate Low	Pull or dig out plants before flowering/seeding
<b>Ashes</b> – Desert Ash – Green Ash, Red Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>angustifolia</i> <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	Moderate Moderate	Cut and dab in growing season. Note: CNM has labelled these as sleeper weeds, and urges everyone to report sightings
<b>Asparagus</b>	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Low	pull or dig out plants

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Bathurst Burr</b>	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Moderate	pull or dig out plants prior to burr forming, cut at ground level (these plants don't regrow without leaves)
<b>Blue Gum</b> (Southern Blue Gum)	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> subsp. <i>bicostata</i>	Medium / Seasonal	pull out as sapling or cut and dab (consider leaving tree if it provides habitat)
<b>Butterfly Bush</b> (Clockweed)	<i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i>	Medium-High	pull or dig out plants, cut at base or spray dense stands with selective herbicide
<b>Californian Poppy</b>	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	Low	pull or dig out plants, or spray dense stands with selective herbicide
<b>Campions or Catchflies</b> – Rose Champion – French Catchfly – Spotted Catchfly, Five-wounded Catchfly	<i>Silene coronaria</i> <i>Silene gallica</i> var. <i>gallica</i> <i>Silene gallica</i> var. <i>quinquevulnera</i>	High Moderate Moderate	pull or dig out plants, get new incursions quickly. These plants produce a lot of seed. Due to fine hairs on leaves spraying does not work well.

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Cape Daisy</b> (African Daisy)	<i>Dimorphotheca ecklonis</i>	Medium to High / Seasonal	Hand pull
<b>Capeweed</b> (Cape Dandelion)	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Moderate	Manual removal, spot spray
<b>Catsears</b> (Catsear)	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Moderate	Dig out, removing entire root
<b>Century Plant</b>	<i>Agave americana</i>	Low	Manual removal inc root
<b>Cherry Plum</b>	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Moderate	Cut and dab in growing season
<b>Clovers</b> – Subterranean Clover – White Clover	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i> <i>Trifolium repens</i>	Low	Spot spray with selective herbicide, but best to out- compete with grass
<b>Cockle Burr</b> (Noogoora Burr)	<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	Moderate	pull or dig out plants prior to burr forming, cut at ground level (these plants don't regrow without leaves)
<b>Common Evening Primrose</b>	<i>Oenothera stricta</i> subsp. <i>Stricta</i>	Moderate	Manual removal, spot spray

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Common Thornapple</b>	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Low	pull or dig out plants prior to burr forming, cut at ground level (these plants don't regrow without leaves)
<b>Cudweeds</b> – Spiked cudweed – Grey Cudweed – Purple Cudweed	<i>Gamochaeta americana</i> <i>Gamochaeta calviceps</i> <i>Gamochaeta purpurea</i>	Low Low Moderate	Pull or dig out (being mindful of correct identification of native creeping cudweed <i>Euchiton japonicus</i> and <i>Euchiton sphaericus</i> )
<b>Dandelion</b>	<i>Taraxacum sect.</i> Taraxacum previously called <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Low	Dig out, removing entire root (being mindful flowers provide food for pollinators)
<b>Docks and Sorrels</b> – Sorrel, Sheep Sorrel – Clustered Dock – Curled Dock	Rumex acetosella Rumex conglomeratus Rumex crispus	Moderate Moderate Low	Dig out, removing entire root. This species has spreading root systems, so follow up treatments will be necessary.
<b>Fat Hen</b>	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Low	Manual removal
<b>Fennel</b>	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Moderate	Dig out, removing entire root

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Meadow Fescue</b>	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Moderate	Manual removal or spray small infestations preferably before seed has set. Removing seed heads is effective.
<b>Fleabanes</b> – Flaxleaf Fleabane – Seaside Daisy – Tall Fleabane	<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> <i>Erigeron sumatrensis</i>	Moderate Moderate Moderate	Manual removal including root before seed set
<b>Gazania</b>	<i>Gazania linearis</i>	Very High	Manual removal including root
<b>Hairy Mustard Weed</b> (Buchan Weed, Yellow Turnip Weed)	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Low	Manual removal including root
<b>Morning Glory</b>	<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Moderate	Manual removal including root
<b>Nettle Tree</b> (Lote Tree)	<i>Celtis australis</i>	Moderate	Manual removal including root when small or cut and dab

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Nightshades</b> Whitetip Nightshade Blackberry Nightshade	<i>Solanum chenopodioides</i> <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Moderate Moderate	Manual removal
<b>Oregon Grape</b> (Holly-leaved Barberry)	<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	Very High	Pull out seedlings, cut and dab bigger plants
<b>Ornamental Pears</b>	<i>Pyrus</i> spp.	Low to moderate	Cut and dab Note: CNM has labelled these as sleeper weeds, and urges everyone to report sightings
<b>Paspalum</b> (Caterpillar Grass)	<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Moderate	Manual removal preferably before seed has set. Removing seed heads is also effective. Or spray small infestations in spring and summer.
<b>Phalaris</b> (Australian Canary Grass)	<i>Phalaris aquatica</i>	Low	Manual removal preferably before seed has set. Removing seed heads is also effective. Or spray small infestations in autumn, winter or spring



Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Pittosporum</b> (Kohuhu)	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>	Low	Cut and dab  Note: CNM has labelled this a sleeper weed, and urges everyone to report sightings
<b>Plantain</b> (Ribwort Plantain)	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Moderate	Manual removal including root
<b>Proliferous Pink</b>	<i>Petrorhagia nanteuilii</i>	Moderate	Manual removal including root
<b>Purple Top</b> (Shore Verbain)	<i>Verbena caracasana</i> <i>Verbena incompta</i>	Moderate	Manual removal
<b>Red Bartsia</b>	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Moderate	Manual removal including root
<b>Rosemary Grevillea</b>	<i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i>	Low	Manual removal including root
<b>Sacred Bamboo</b>	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	Medium-High	Cut and dab  Note: CNM has labelled this a sleeper weed, and urges everyone to report sightings

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Service Tree</b>	<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	Low	Hand pull seedlings and small plants, cut large plants at ground level, no herbicide needed
<b>Shepherd's Purse</b>	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Low	Manual removal including root
<b>Skeleton Weed</b>	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	Low	Manual removal including root
<b>Soapwort</b>	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Moderate	Manual removal including root
<b>Sticky Weed (Cleavers)</b>	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Moderate	Manual removal before flowering and seeds
<b>Storksbills</b> – Long Storksbill – Heronsbill – Common Storksbill – (Common Crowfoot)	<i>Erodium botrys</i> <i>Erodium brachycarpum</i> <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Moderate Low Moderate	Chip
<b>Strawberry Tree</b>	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	High	Cut and dab, dig out small plants. Note: CNM has labelled this a sleeper weed, and urges everyone to report sightings

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Sulphur Cinquefoil</b>	<i>Potentilla recta</i>	Moderate	Manual removal or spray with Glyphosate
<b>Thistles</b> – Nodding Thistle – Slender Thistle – Winged Slender Thistle – Saffron Thistle – Star Thistle – Maltese Cockspur (Cockspur Thistle) – Spear Thistle – Scotch Thistle – Variegated Thistle – Prickly Sowthistle – Common Sowthistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i> <i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> <i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i> <i>Carthamus lanatus</i> <i>Centaurea calcitrapa</i> <i>Centaurea melitensis</i> <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> <i>Onopordum acanthium</i> <i>Silybum marianum</i> <i>Sonchus asper</i> <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Moderate Moderate Moderate Moderate Low Low Moderate Moderate Low Low Moderate	Chip or spot spray rosettes, hand pull taller plants before flowering and pile to reduce seed spread
<b>Toadflaxes</b> – Corn Toadflax – Pelisser's Toadflax	<i>Linaria arvensis</i> <i>Linaria pelisseriana</i>	Low Low	Manual removal or spot spray

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Trad</b>	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Very High	Dig or pull out removing all roots, spray with Glyphosate. Follow up treatment is necessary as the plant can resprout from small root fragments
<b>Tweedia</b> (Southern Star)	<i>Oxypetalum coeruleum</i>	Low	Manual removal or spot spray
<b>Umbrella Sedge</b>	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Moderate	Manual removal
<b>Violet</b> (Sweet Violet)	<i>Viola odorata</i>	Moderate	Manual removal or spot spray
<b>Burgan</b> (White Tea Tree)	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	Low	Hand pull seedlings, or cut and paint
<b>Wild Apple</b>	<i>Malus domestica</i>	Low	Cut and dab in growing season
<b>Wild Elms</b> – Chinese Elm – English Elm (Dutch Elm)	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> <i>Ulmus procera</i>	Low Low	Cut and dab in growing season  Note: CNM has labelled Chinese Elm as a sleeper weed, and urges everyone to report sightings

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
<b>Wild Pistachio</b> (Chinese Pistachio)	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	High	Cut and dab in growing season
<b>Wild Sage</b>	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> var. <i>verbenaca</i>	Moderate	Manual removal
<b>Willows</b> – White Willow – Crack Willow – Weeping Willow – Tortured Willow – Black Willow	<i>Salix alba</i> <i>Salix x fragilis</i> <i>Salix x pendulina</i> <i>Salix matsudana</i> 'Tortuosa' <i>Salix nigra</i>	Moderate High Low Low High	Cut and dab during growing season.
<b>Willowherbs</b> – Willowherb (Glandular Willowherb) – Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i> <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Moderate Moderate	Chip, being mindful to distinguish from native species
<b>Yellow Hawkweed</b>	<i>Tolpis barbata</i>	Moderate	Manual removal
<b>Yorkshire Fog</b>	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Moderate	Manual removal preferably before seed has set. Removing seed heads is also effective. Or spray small infestations in autumn, winter, spring.

Common name	Scientific Name	Priority	Control method
Yucca (Spanish Bayonet)	<i>Yucca aloifolia</i>	Low	Dig out plants

## Using the Field Maps app

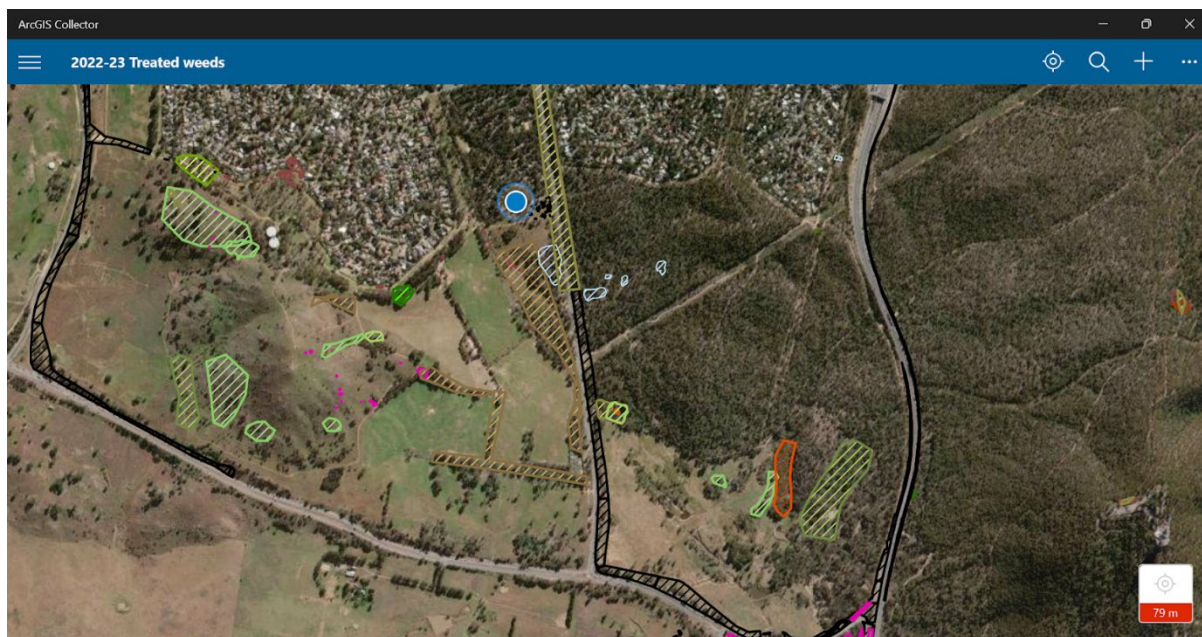
Field Maps is an app using ArcGIS Online for recording both treated and untreated weeds on public land in the ACT. It is designed to be used by land managers, staff, contractors and volunteers, so that all information related to weed control is readily accessible on the one platform.

Whilst it may seem like extra work to map our efforts, especially when it does not result in extra weeding getting done, it is strongly encouraged that you take the time to map what you are working on. There are lots of reasons for this, including a record of untreated weeds, how much work is undertaken by volunteers, contractors and so forth, whether treatment has effectively reduced weeds, control methods used, locations treated etc. If you are interested in an overview of control work, explore [here](#).

Field Maps app is easy to use on your mobile when you are out working. It's pretty much a case of turn your location on, open the app (easiest to stay logged in), choose the right map, wait for your location to show, choose a weed and fill in the accompanying form about method and abundance, then start streaming and walk around the patch. Detailed instructions are provided [here](#). Regular training is provided for volunteers.

Volunteers should obtain their login details from PCS or their group convenors.

This image (*Figure 108*) looking down at Mt Painter and Aranda Bushland gives you an idea of how Field Maps app looks. In practice one can display the legend, and/or hover over the coloured hatched area to bring up details on the type of weed, the size, the control method and who controlled it (eg Park Care volunteer). Or use the filter function on the operations dashboards.



*Figure 108 Visual of Field Maps app*

## Some suggestions for identifying a plant

Is it a weed? A non-local native? How damaging is it or could it be?

Many new weed incursions are spotted by local people who are very familiar with their area, and notice any new plants. Sometimes these are entirely new to the area, or they have popped up after an absence of some years, or they are just new to you. Either way, identifying a plant is an important first step. Following are some simple steps to follow and resources you can check to identify a plant.

### New plant

- Look at it closely. Note height, shape and arrangement of leaves, habit, unusual features etc
- Are flowers or fruit present?
- What type of plant is it? For example a grass, a tree, a shrub, a vine, a fern, a lilly, a waterplant
- Does it resemble another plant you already know? It may be related
- Where is it growing?

### Take photo/s

- With location setting 'on', take one or more photos
- Include photos of the flower or fruiting body if present, leaves and stem and whole plant

### Use resources to identify

- Use one of the excellent online tools we are lucky enough to have at our disposal:
- [Canberra Nature Map](#). This moderated website is a good first place to check. There are individual lists for each reserve in the ACT, broken down into plant groupings. For example if you think you have found a grass and you are in the Tuggeranong Hill Nature reserve, you can browse the plant list for grasses in that reserve. You can also register and upload your photos for moderators with expertise to identify
- [iNaturalist](#). This works in a similar way to Canberra Nature Map described above
- [ACT & SE NSW Invasive Plants facebook page](#). This is a good site to upload photos and ask the online community for help in identifying, with very little effort required
- [Lucidcentral](#) is a tool for what is called 'keying out' species. Once can use the key to narrow down a list of possible choices. The Environmental Weeds of Australia app uses this technology
- There are also plant ID apps, and reverse image searches on platforms like Google, but if one has no plant knowledge at all, these can easily make incorrect suggestions



## Further resources

### Online resources

- The [NSW Department of Primary Industries website](#) has very useful information about many weeds including biology and control methods. The [NSW WeedWise app](#) has the same information as a smartphone app. Note that many of the herbicides used are not currently permitted for use by PCS volunteers, so refer to individual weed profiles in this manual for prescriptions
- [Weeds Australia](#) also contains information about weeds which can be searched by common or scientific name
- The [ACT Invasive Plants Control Plan 2020 – 2025](#) outlines local priorities and triage methods. It includes links to the Advisory List of naturalised alien plant species, and a host of other great resources which are updated regularly, such as the ‘look a-likes’ to help differentiate native and invasive plants
- [Canberra Nature Map](#) and [iNaturalist Australia](#) are very useful tools for identifying plants if you are not sure what is what. These citizen science sites are moderated by experts who can identify most species by photos and location of photo. This means you can search species in the area you are, and also upload photos to check for accurate identification. Ensure that your photos are useful for identification purposes. This includes location data (GPS on), and clear, close detailed photos which show multiple parts of the plant, like leaves, flowers and fruit. It is a good idea to add weeds to Canberra Nature Map, as it provides a useful record.
- The [ACT & SE NSW Invasive Plants facebook page](#) is useful for getting weeds identified. Note that is run by south coast NSW volunteers and is not an approved ACT Government Facebook group
- [Weedscan](#) is a resource from CSIRO/Atlas of Living Australia with website and smartphone app that targets 300+ high priority weeds across the country and offers an online ID tool using AI methods with instant feedback for photos submitted in locations with mobile signals.
- [APVMA off-label permits for the ACT](#) for instructions on herbicide use
- Operations dashboards are a quick way of looking at control work recorded on the Field Maps app and ArcGIS Online. They can filter on the species of interest and who undertook the control work.

○ 2022-23

<https://actgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5449adb632884d68aeb585e3e73dde99>

○ 2021-22

<https://actgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/c6083d9db4f240c7a93f39dcb06244e2>

- [Monitoring manual for invasive and native flora](#) NSW Department of Primary Industries which has some useful information about tracking results
- The Ten years of invasive plant control report contains some good case studies of successful control work:
- <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/90c4936a79e74a9fbe77cd877baadc50>

## Books

- Sharp S., Rehwinkel R., Mallinson D. and Eddy D. (2022) *Woodland Flora, a field guide for the Southern Tablelands*, Friends of Grasslands: Canberra.

*Brilliant field guide with descriptions and photos for plant identification (companion book to Grassland flora).*

- Rose H., Kidson J., Rose R., and Edwards C. (2013) *Grasses of NSW Tablelands*, NSW Department of Primary Industries.

*An extremely useful book for grass identification with great pictures.*

- Eddy D., Mallinson D., Rehwinkel R., and Sharp S. (2011) *Grassland Flora a field guide for the Southern Tablelands* (NSW and ACT).

*An excellent field guide to grassland flora including grasses, forbs, lilies, orchids, shrubs and trees (companion book to Woodland flora).*

*Good luck!*

*Go on, get out there and pull some weeds.*