BASS COAST

# Common Weeds of Gippsland

## WEED IDENTIFICATION

Bass Coast Landcare Network

State Government Victoria

# What is a weed?

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

# Types of weeds

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

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

## AGRICULTURAL WEEDS

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

## DECLARED NOXIOUS WEEDS

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

1. **State Prohibited**
   To be eradicated if possible from within Victoria or excluded from the State, e.g. water hyacinth. The cost of eradication is borne by the Government.
2. **Regionally Prohibited**
   Are not widely distributed, but are capable of spreading further. It is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from a region, e.g. cape tulip.
3. **Regionally Controlled**
   Are widespread and established in a region. e.g. blackberries and ragwort. It is the responsibility of the Landowner to prevent the growth and spread of these weeds on their land and on roadsides that adjoins their land, except declared main roads and freeways.
4. **Restricted Weeds**
   Are a threat to primary production, the environment or community health in other states of Australia and pose an unacceptable risk of spreading within Victoria.

*The above groups are all NOXIOUS and are prohibited from sale. This symbol denotes a NOXIOUS weed in this booklet.*

This book has been made possible through the combined efforts of your local Councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Landcare. This Weed Identification booklet will assist the community to reduce and control the impact of weeds on our environment.

# Disposal of garden rubbish

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

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

# Control

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

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

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

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

# Methods of control

## *NON CHEMICAL*

**Prevention: Control small weed infestations before they spread. Remove weeds before they seed.**

### Hand Pulling

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

### Slashing or mowing

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

### Mechanical - Use of heavy machinery

Suitable for initial removal of large infestations of woody weeds. Often followed by other forms of control.

**Caution:** Some weeds are spread through movement of contaminated machinery, ensure machinery is clean before shifting to a fresh site.

### Solarisation

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

### Mulching / Smothering

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

### Pasture Improvement / Revegetation

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

## *CHEMICAL*

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

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

### Cut & Paint

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

### Drill & Frill

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

### Scrape & Paint

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

### Foliar Spray

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

## African Love Grass

*Eragrostis curvula*

Status: Regionally prohibited

**Family:** Poaceae **Origin:** Southern Africa
**Description:** Tussock forming perennial grass
**Fruit/Seeds:** Produces large quantities of seed summer to autumn.
**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed. Seed is dispersed by water, wind animals, vehicles, slashing, on clothing and in soil.
**Invades:** Open disturbed conditions, roadsides, neglected areas, poor quality pastures.

## Agapanthus

*Agapanthus praecox*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Liliaceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** A stout, fleshy-rooted perennial which bears a spherical cluster of sky-blue flowers in summer on 1m high stalks.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds form after flowering.
**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds, wind, water, carried on boots and clothing or vegetatively from dumping of garden rubbish.
**Invades:** Bushland, coastal areas, roadsides.

## Alligator Weed

*Alternanthera philoxeroides*

Status: State prohibited

**Family:** Amaranthaceae **Origin:** South America
**Description:** Lance-shaped, dark green, opposite leaves growing on a soft, hollow stem. White flowers mid spring-autumn.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Reproduces by stolons.
**Dispersal:** Stolons are dispersed by water movement, flood and wave action, wind, animals, machinery and in soil.
**Invades:** is a highly aggressive, invasive species capable of spreading in waterways or seasonally moist conditions.

## Angled Onion

*Allium triquetrum*

Status: Regionally controlled (Port Phillip Region only)

**Family:** Liliaceae **Origin:** Mediterranean region
**Description:** White, bell-like flowers in winter and spring; similar to snowdrop but with a strong onion smell.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds in summer.
**Dispersal:** Spreads mainly vegetatively from bulbs eg. through grading of roadsides.
**Invades:** Water courses, roadsides, waste areas, coastal areas.

## Amsinckia

*Amsinckia spp.*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Boraginaceae **Origin:** North and South America.
**Description:** Free-standing, winter growing herb 20 to 70 cm high covered with long and short hairs. Yellow to orange trumpet shaped flowers August to November.
**Fruit/Seeds:** The fruit consists of a burr surrounding four nutlets, each containing a single seed. A plant may produce up to 1600 seeds.
**Dispersal:** Seed is effectively spread on farm equipment, in contaminated fodder and by birds and animals.
**Invades:** An agricultural weed, has potential to cover a wide range of soil types and climates. Competes strongly with cereal crops.

## Apple of Sodom

*Solarnum linnaeanum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Solonaceae
**Description:** An erect shrub to 1m with spines and prickles on the branches, leaves and calyces. Purple to white flowers winter – spring.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Globular berries, green to yellow when ripe. ***Poisonous.***
**Dispersal:** By seed - birds, foxes etc.
**Invades:** Bushland, roadsides, waste areas.

## Arum Lily

*Zantedeschia aethiopica*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Araceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** A large perennial herb with large fleshy green leaves. Garden escapee. All parts of the plant are **poisonous** if eaten.
**Fruit/Seeds:** White trumpet shaped flowers with a yellow flower spike followed by a seed head from July to November.
**Dispersal:** Spread by underground rhizomes. Seed spread by birds, foxes and dumped garden prunings.
**Invades:** Moist areas and along watercourses.

## Asparagus Fern

*Asparagus spp.*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Liliaceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** Highly invasive climbing plant with small green leaves along a twining stem.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Small white flowers in spring develop into orange berries.
**Dispersal:** By seeds or rhizomes, commonly spread by birds or from dumped garden refuse.
**Invades:** The ground-layer and lower canopy of bushland particularly in sandy areas. Will grow in shaded areas.

## Banana Passionfruit

*Passiflora mollissima*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Passsifloraceae **Origin:** Andean South America
**Description:** A fast-growing woody-stemmed tendril climber which forms dense layered mats. Long tubed pink flowers in summer followed by edible fruit.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Fruiting is copious over autumn-winter.
**Dispersal:** Seed dispersed by birds or from dumped garden refuse.
**Invades:** Damp or seasonally moist locations. Will grow in moderate shade but is prolific in sunny locations.

## Bathurst Burr

*Xanthium spinosum L*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** Course annual weed, dark shiny divided leaves with whitish undersurface. Three yellow spines grow at the base of each leaf stalk.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Hairy ovoid fruit with numerous yellow-orange hooked spines.
**Dispersal:** Through burrs carried by animals, clothing, machinery, fodder and in soil.
**Invades:** Pastures, sale yards, stock yards, woollen mills.

## Blackberry

*Rubus fructicosus L. agg.*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Rosaceae **Origin:** Europe

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

**Fruit/Seeds:** Small white flowers late spring – summer followed by berries which change from green through red to black as they ripen.

**Dispersal:** Reproduces from seed, root suckers and via tip rooting. Seeds are spread by birds and foxes.

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

## Black Knapweed

*Centaurea nigra L.*

Status: State prohibited

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Europe

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

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

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

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

## Blackberry Nightshade

*Solanum nigrum L.*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Solanaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** An annual herb which varies widely in its growth form.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Small white flowers in spring-summer, with green to black berries.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are spread by birds and animals.
**Invades:** Waste places, areas of cultivation, and is a common coloniser where weeds such as blackberries have been sprayed and the area not rehabilitated with appropriate species.

## Bluebell Creeper

*Sollya heterophylla*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Pittosporaceae **Origin:** Western Australia
**Description:** Evergreen, woody based, twining climber with attractive blue flowers. Smothers ground-flora, smaller shrubs and trees.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Attractive blue flowers spring – summer followed by a sweet sticky green fruit.
**Dispersal:** A garden escapee with the fruit spread by birds and foxes.
**Invades:** Prefers lighter soils and is highly invasive in Victorian coastal woodlands.

## Blue Butterfly Bush

*Psoralaea pinnata*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Fabaceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** An erect perennial shrub, 2-4 m garden escapee.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Mauve-blue pea shaped flowers with white centers flowers spring – early summer. Seeds in black pods 3-4 mm long.
**Dispersal:** Seeds spread by birds, roadworks, slashing and soil disturbance.
**Invades:** Highly invasive in heathlands, shrublands, woodlands, coastal, drier forests, swamp edges and riparian areas. Will grow in a variety of soil types.

## Blue Periwinkle

*Vinca major*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Apocynaceae **Origin:** Mediterranean region
**Description:** An ornamental creeper which forms dense, intertwining low mats which can completely smother all ground flora.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Lilac-blue flowers in spring-summer. Seeds contained in tapering follicles 2-5 cm long.
**Dispersal:** Primarily by stem rooting, often through disposal of garden refuse in the bush and along roadsides. Some reproduction from seed.
**Invades:** Fertile soils, primarily in damp shaded areas in forests, coastal areas, woodlands and along waterways, drainage lines and roadsides.

## Boneseed

*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*

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

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** An erect perennial shrub to 3 m high with dull green paddle shaped leaves. Young leaves often covered in cottony down.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Bright yellow daisy flowers in winter to summer, green berries in summer which turn into hard black seeds.
**Dispersal:** A heavy seeder, seeds spread by birds, animals and water.
**Invades:** Coastal habitats, dry forests.

## Boxthorn

*Lycium ferocissimum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Solanaceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** A large shrub to 3 m with small fleshy oval leaves and spikes along the branches. Plants provide an ideal harbour for rabbits and foxes.
**Fruit/Seeds:** White to mauve flowers which develop into small red berries.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are spread by birds and foxes.
**Invades:** Was first introduced for hedgerows, occurs commonly on wastelands, agricultural land, roadsides and coastal areas.

## Bridal Creeper

*Asparagus asparagiodes*

Status: Environmental Weed

**Family:** Liliaceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** Deciduous, woody-based scrambling climber, aggressive and highly invasive, smothering ground flora, smaller shrubs and trees.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Greenish-white flowers in spring followed by green to red berries.
**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seeds and rhizomes/tubers. Spread by birds and dumping of garden refuse. Seed viability approx. 90%.
**Invades:** Most vigorous in lighter soils and shaded positions

## Broom – Cape/Montpelier

*Genista monpessulana*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Fabaceae **Origin:** Europe, Mediterranean
**Description:** Erect perennial shrub, clover shaped leaves with dense clusters of yellow pea flowers in spring and summer.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Five to eight seeds in flat, silky pods which are ejected forcibly from the pods when ripe.
**Dispersal:** Seed is spread by birds, ants, stock, water, machinery, slashing, in soil and garden refuse.
**Invades:** Highly invasive, commonly establishing in disturbed bushland margins and along roadsides & railway lines. Regenerates after fire.

## Broom – English

*Cytisus scoparius*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Fabaceae **Origin:** Europe, Mediterranean

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

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

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

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

## Broom – Flax-leaved

*Genista linifolia*

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

**Family:** Fabaceae

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

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

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

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

## Cape Tulip

*Moraea spp.*

Status: Regionally controlled - two-leaved
Regionally prohibited (East & West Gippsland) - one-leaf

**Family:** Iridacea **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** One-leaf Cape tulip has one stem 30 – 75 cm high and salmon pink or orange flowers. Two-leaved cape tulip has stems with a flower on each. **Poisonous** to stock.
**Fruits/seeds:** Numerous seeds produced in capsules. Underground corms are produced annually. Two-leaf cape tulip also reproduces by leaf cormils.
**Dispersal:** By underground corms, cormils and seeds dispersed by water, animals, machinery, wind, slashing and in soil.
**Invades:** Agricultural land, native grasslands, woodlands and heathlands.

## Cape Wattle

*Paraserianthos lophantha*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Mimosaceae **Origin:** Western Australia
**Description:** A popular ornamental tree with dark-green fern-like leaves. Greenish-yellow bottlebrush-like flower spikes in late autumn-spring.
**Fruits/seeds:** Seeds in reddish-brown pods over summer.
**Dispersal:** Seeds prolifically. Seed is dispersed by birds, ants, slashing, machinery, in soil and garden refuse.
**Invades:** Woodlands, forests, riparian environments, coastal areas.

## Capeweed

*Arctotheca calendula*

Status: Agricultural weed

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Africa
**Description:** A widespread annual herb with divided, spreading leaves and yellow, daisy like flowers spring-summer.
**Fruits/seeds:** Seeds covered in a pink, tangled woolly covering.
**Dispersal:** Seeds spread by animals, wind and machinery.
**Invades:** Bare areas in paddocks and waste places.

## Chilean Needle Grass

*Nasella neesiana*

Status: Noxious weed

**Family:** Poaceae (Grasses) **Origin:** South America
**Description:** A perennial dense, clumping tussock-forming grass to 1.2 m in height
**Fruit/Seeds:** A distinctive purple-green flower with abundant aerial, basal and stem seeds. The seeds have a very sharp point and can produce up to 15,000 seeds per square metre, with seeds remaining viable for many years.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are effectively spread by farm machinery, clothing or livestock, roadside mowing and earthmoving equipment.
**Invades:** Pastures, grassy woodlands, roadsides and along creeks and rivers. This species thrives in a wide range of soils and conditions. It is drought tolerant and is not impacted by heavy grazing.

## Cleavers (Sticky Weed)

*Galium aparine*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Rubiaceae **Origin:** Europe and Asia
**Description:** An annual climbing herb with square stems covered with small prickles which give the plant a sticky feel.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Small white flowers in summer followed by a round sticky seed pod.
**Dispersal:** By the seed which readily sticks to clothing and animals.
**Invades:** Gardens and roadsides in high rainfall areas.

## Climbing Groundsel

*Senecio angulatus*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** A perrenial climber or large spreading shrub. 5-20 m
**Fruit/Seeds:** Has yellow florets which carry seed.
**Dispersal:** Through wind-blown parachutes and birds.
**Invades:** Cultivated areas, coastal areas and bushland.

## Cootamundra Wattle

*Acacia Baileyana*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Mimosaceae **Origin:** New South Wales
**Description:** Small spreading tree commonly planted as an ornamental plant with profuse, golden, ball-shaped flowers in winter.
**Fruits/Seeds:** A prolific seed producer with seed remaining dormant in the ground for over 10 years.
**Invades:** Invades woodlands and forests in drier areas where rainfall exceeds 400 mm.

## Cotoneaster

*Cotoneaster spp.*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Rosaceae **Origin:** China
**Description:** Popular evergreen garden shrub or small tree with green oval leaves and small white flowers in spring followed by orange-red berries.
**Fruits/seeds:** Large orange-red berries, potentially **poisonous**.
**Dispersal:** Seeds dispersed by birds, foxes and in garden refuse. Will sucker if cut down.
**Invades:** Invasive in a range of natural habitats. Tolerates wet and dry conditions. Will grow in lightly shaded or sunny areas.

## Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens lignosus*

Status: Environmental Weed

**Family:** Rununculaceae **Origin:** Europe, Asia
**Description:** Rhizomatous perennial creeper. Large leaves divided into 3 with yellow buttercup flowers. **Poisonous** to stock.
**Dispersal:** Water, soil and animals (external)
**Invades:** Moist areas and riparian environments.

## Desert Ash *Fraxinus angustifolia subsp. angustifolia*

*(Also known as Narrow leaved ash, Caucasian ash)*

Status: Environmental Weed

**Origin**: Mediterranean Region & South Western Asia

**Family:** Oleaceae
**Description:** Widely planted as a street and park tree, this species is highly invasive and now encroaches on native bushland. A deciduous tree reaching 10–20 m high with an upright habit, it has rough bark and leaves that turn yellow in autumn. The trees can live up to 80 years.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Characteristic brown buds with a trilateral arrangement. The fruit (samara) is 3 – 5 cm long and grow in clusters with a slight twisted appearance, turning brown and maturing late summer. Large mature trees can produce thousands of seeds annually.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are dispersed by wind and water up to several kilometres.
**Invades:** Drainage lines and roadsides, disturbed vegetation sites, woodland, grassland and potentially, alpine streams.

## Dolichos Pea

*Dipogon lignosus*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Fabaceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** A widely cultivated perennial vine with pink, purple or white pea shaped flowers in spring-summer.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Seeds are contained in pods and can be ejected many metres from the parent plant.
**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds, in soil and garden refuse.
**Invades:** Highly invasive in woodlands, heathlands and dune systems.

## Fennel

*Foeniculum vulgare*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Apiaceae **Origin:** Southern Europe, Western Asia
**Description:** An erect perennial plant to 2 m high with a strong aniseed smell when crushed. Small yellow flowers in clusters grouped in umbrella shapes.
**Fruits/Seeds:** 3-6 mm long yellow brown seeds.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are dispersed by water, wind, machinery, slashing and in soil.
**Invades:** A widespread weed of disturbed and degraded areas, especially along waterways, drainage lines and roadsides.

## Flaxleaf Fleabane

*Conyza bonariensis*

Status: Agricultural Weed

**Family:** Asteraceae Compositae **Origin:** North/South America
**Description:** Annual or perennial herb. Erect in stature, usually less than 1m in height.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Flowers in spring-autumn, with white hairs evident. Dispersal: Birds, water and animals (internal).
**Invades:** Bushland, roadsides, riparian vegetation, disturbed sites.

## Gorse or Furze

*Ulex europaeus*

Status: Regionally prohibited

**Family:** Fabaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** A dense spiny shrub to 2-4 m which forms impenetrable thickets excluding all other vegetation and providing a harbour for rabbits.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Fragrant, bright yellow pea flowers occur in clusters from September to January followed by long, dark, hairy pods containing 2-6 seeds. Seed viability 2-5 years
**Dispersal:** Seeds are ejected forcibly from pods, spread by machinery, birds, animals, vehicles and in soil.
**Invades:** Disturbed agricultural land, degraded landscapes, coastal areas roadsides. Also woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas and forests.

## Hawthorn

*Crateagus monogyna*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Rosaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** Erect deciduous small shrub to tree with thorny branches and small serrated bright green leaves. Once widely used for hedges.
**Fruit/Seeds:** White or pink flowers in spring followed by red berries in autumn.
**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed which is dispersed by birds, foxes, possums, stock and water.
**Invades:** Invasive along creeks, rivers and roadsides.

## Hemlock

*Conium maculatum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Apiaceae **Origin:** Europe, Asia
**Description:** Erect annual or biannual herb with ferny leaves and masses of small white flowers in an umbrella arrangement. Has an unpleasant smell when crushed. **All parts of the plant are toxic to humans and animals.**
**Fruits/Seeds:** Masses of small seeds produced after flowering.
**Dispersal:** Spread by machinery, water and soil movement.
**Invades:** Roadsides, stream-sides and waste areas

## Holly

*Ilex aquifolium*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Aquifoliaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** Small ornamental tree with dark shiny leaves with prickly margins.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Small white fragrant flowers followed by red berries in summer, autumn and winter.
**Dispersal:** Seed spread mainly by birds.
**Invades:** Woodlands and forests with cool moist climates. Very competitive in heavy shade.

## Horehound

*Marrubium vulgare L.*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Lamiaceae (mint family) **Origin:** Asia, Europe
**Description:** A whitish-downy perennial herb with small white flowers in groups next to the upper leaves on the stem. Flowering mainly in Spring.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Brown or black, ovoid or triangular, slightly roughened.
**Dispersal:** Seeds primarily dispersed by stock, foxes and rabbits, as the fruit readily attaches to wool, fur etc.
**Invades:** Roadsides, channel banks, sheep camps. overgrazed pastures and open waste spaces in southern Australia.

## Ivy – Cape

*Delairea odorata*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** South Africa
**Description:** A highly invasive climbing plant which forms smothering curtains over smaller plants and trees.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Yellow daisy-like flowers in winter-early spring followed by seed with hairs attached.
**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed and from stolons. Spreads by seed and is dispersed by wind, machinery, slashing and in garden refuse.
**Invades:** High rainfall areas, occurring in dune systems, woodlands, forests, riparian areas, neglected areas and roadsides.

## Ivy – English

*Hedera helix*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Araliaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** A widely planted ornamental creeper with green sword shaped leaves. Trailing stems form dense smothering mats.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Greenish-yellow flowers in autumn followed by black fruit.
**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds, foxes, and possibly water. Stem fragments disposed of in garden refuse will also grow.
**Invades:** Seasonally moist, shaded or sunny positions in wet forest, dry forest and coastal areas.

## Japanese Honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*

Status: Not declared noxious in Victoria

**Family:** Caprifoliaceae **Origin:** East Asia including China, Japan & Korea
**Description:** A highly invasive, semi-deciduous climbing shrub with strongly scented paired flowers ranging in colour from white to cream with some burgundy edging.
**Fruit/Seeds:** A shiny egg-shaped berry (6-10mm long) initially green turning black at maturity. Seeds can germinate in low light conditions.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are spread by birds, water and in garden refuse and stem rooting.
**Invades:** Moist, fertile settings and bushland, however once established can withstand extensive dry periods. This plant grows vigorously in lightly shaded or open sunny locations usually infesting disturbed bushland margins. The species is extremely difficult to control and may require subsequent treatments before being destroyed.

## Kikuyu Grass

*Pennisetum clandestinum*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Poaceae **Origin:** Eastern Africa
**Description:** A coarse, matted perennial grass with long stout stolons and light green leaves. Can climb in loose mats over shrubs, fences etc. Used extensively as a summer growing pasture.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Rarely flowers, reproduces readily from small pieces.
**Dispersal:** Many infestations are the result of garden dumpings and deliberate plantings for lawns and soil stabilization. Rhizomes, stolons and seed can be spread during the removal of garden refuse and soil and dispersed by water.
**Invades:** Bushland locations, grasslands, grassy woodlands, coastal areas, riparian areas, moist forests and roadsides.

## Mirror Bush

*Coprosma repens*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Rubiaceae **Origin:** New Zealand
**Description:** Erect perennial shrub with shiny, bright green oval shaped leaves. It is a hardy, adaptable plant which grows in shade and full sun.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Inconspicuous flowers followed by green-red berries.
**Dispersal:** Reproduces by seed, which is spread by birds, foxes and possums.
**Invades:** A widely grown plant in coastal areas, commonly invades coastal bushland environments.

## Montbretia

*Crocosmia X crocosmiiflora*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Iridaceae **Origin:** A horticultural hybrid
**Description:** A popular garden plant with pale green sword shaped leaves and bright red flower spikes to 1 m over summer. The plant dies back to a bulb over autumn.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Reproduces from seeds, but primarily from corms.
**Dispersal:** Spread by water, slashing, grading and in garden refuse.
**Invades:** An aggressive invader of moist fertile areas forming close stands crowding out other plants.

## Morning Glory

*Ipomoea spp.*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Convolvulaceae **Origin:** Tropical regions
**Description:** Rampant climbing plant capable of smothering low growing vegetation, trees and shrubs. Tubular, blue trumpet-shaped flowers in warmer weather.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Reproduces by seed and stolons.
**Dispersal:** Most outbreaks are spread by dumping of garden refuse. Seed is dispersed by wind and water.
**Invades:** Favours sunny positions in moist locations. Invasions often commence in disturbed bushland margins, expanding as the canopy dies and light levels increase.

## Mullein – Great

*Verbascum thapsus L.*

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

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae **Origin:** Europe, Asia
**Description:** A stout biennial herb with erect stems and large rossette leaves. Numerous yellow flowers form along a rod-like structure. A garden escapee still found in cottage gardens.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds are produced after flowering.
**Dispersal:** By seed, dumped garden refuse, road machinery, slashing.
**Invades:** Roadsides, railway lines, waste areas, degraded agricultural land.

## Mullein – Twiggy

*Verbascum virgatum*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** Biennial erect herb to 1 m high. Has an erect flower stem arising from a rosette from which numerous yellow flowers develop.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds are produced after flowering.
**Dispersal:** By seed through road machinery, grading, slashing.
**Invades:** Roadsides, railway lines, waste areas and degraded agricultural land.

## Oxeye Daisy

*Leucanthemum vulgare*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Europe and Siberia
**Description:** A perennial plant with long slender stalks and white daisy flowers with yellow centers in spring-autumn.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Dark brown, grey or black flat and usually ribbed seeds are produced in summer.
**Dispersal:** By seed, spread by machinery especially slashing and animals.
**Invades:** Wet forest, grassy woodland, riparian, alpine vegetation, agricultural land and along roadsides.

## Parrots Feather

*Myriophyllum aquaticum*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Haloragaceae **Origin:** South America
**Description:** A highly invasive aquatic weed which grows partly submerged. Leaves above the surface are whorled and feathery in appearance.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Only female flowers produced in Australia, fertile seed not produced.
**Dispersal:** A popular aquarium plant, spread by dumping of fish tank water, spreads by stem fragments.
**Invades:** Shallow water bodies, creeks, dams and drains.

## Pampas Grass

*Cortaderia selloana*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Gramineae/Poaceae **Origin:** South America
**Description:** Large tussocky perennial grass with white or pink feathery flowers in late summer.
**Fruits/Seeds:** As seeds fall, flowers appear white.
**Dispersal:** Seeds are spread by wind, machinery and dumping of garden refuse.
**Invades:** Open, sunny areas which have adequate moisture. Along streambanks, roadsides and waste places and native vegetation.

## Paterson's Curse

*Echium plantagineum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Boraginaceae **Origin:** Western Europe, Mediterranean
**Description:** A major agricultural weed. An erect biennial herb to 1m with bluish-purple flowers in spring.
**Fruits/Seeds:** A prolific seeder with four nutlets surrounded by a persistant stiff calyx.
**Dispersal:** By seed, spread by contaminated fodder, machinery, vehicles, animals. Seed viability over 5 years.
**Invades:** Establishes large populations rapidly, especially on disturbed ground. Competes with pasture and establishes on the edge of bushland. A priority weed through Gippsland.

## Pine

*Pinus radiata*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Pinaceae **Origin:** Northern Hemisphere
**Description:** A tall, evergreen softwood tree to 40 m. Dark green needle-like leaves in dense clusters.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Large seed bearing cones are produced at the end of branches.
**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by wind and birds.
**Invades:** Pines reduce soil fertility, produce a dense leaf litter and shade out other species.

## Polygala or Myrtle-Leaf Milkwort

*Polygala myrtifolia*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Polygalaceae **Origin:** South Africa

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

**Fruits/Seeds:** Fruits are heart-shaped capsules containing 2 seeds.

**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds, ants, water, in soil and garden refuse.

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

## Ragwort

*Senecio jacobaea*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Europe

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

**Fruits/Seeds:** Each plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds.

**Dispersal:** Seeds are spread by wind, water, vehicles, animals and clothing. Viability 8+ years.

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

## Red Ink Weed

*Phytolacca octandra*

Status: Environmental Weed

**Family:** Phytolaccaceae **Origin:** Tropical America
**Description:** Perennial herb or soft-wooded shrub to 2m.
**Fruits/Seeds:** Stems red in colour, flowers November-May.
Rank smelling. Shining black berries when ripe. **Poisonous.**
**Dispersal:** Water and vegetatively.
**Invades:** Heath and Bushland

## Salvinia

*Salvinia molesta*

Status: State prohibited

**Family:** Salviniaceae **Origin:** Brazil
**Description:** A free-floating freshwater aquatic fern, one of the worlds most serious aquatic weeds.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Plants are sterile and reproduce solely by vegetative means.
**Dispersal:** Sold illegally as an aquarium and pond plant. Establishes from discarded aquarium and pond refuse. Physical disturbance disperses plants through waterbodies.
**Invades:** Still or slow moving fresh-water bodies. Dense mats exclude all other forms of vegetation, reduce oxygen and light levels and physically disrupt invertebrate, fish and bird habitat.

# Serrated Tussock

*Nassella trichotoma*

Status: Regionally prohibited

**Family:** Poaceae **Origin:** South America

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

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

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

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

# Spanish Heath

*Erica lusitanica*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Ericaceae **Origin:** South-West Europe

**Description:** An erect shrub to 3 m high with numerous pink tinged white flowers in late winter.

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

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

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

# Spartinas

*Spartina spp.*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Poaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** An aggressive, inter-tidal perennial warm-season grass which was used to stabilize and reclaim tidal mudflats. Leaves taper to a fine point , flowering stems are stiff with upright flowers consisting of two to six spikes.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Reproduces by seed.
**Dispersal:** Seed and rhizomes are dispersed in water, mud and during removal.
**Invades:** Estuarine mudflats, beaches and mangroves.

# Spiny Rush

*Juncus acutus*

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

**Family:** Juncaceae **Origin:** Europe, Africa, America
**Description:** A salt tolerant rush, grows to 3 m high, stems terminate with a sharp spine bearing clusters of reddish brown flowers several cm from the tip.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Capsules containing numerous seeds.
**Dispersal:** Seed is spread by water, machinery, mud, cultivation.
**Invades:** Coastal marsh situations and inland wetland areas.

# Spurge - Caper

*Euphorbia lathyris*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Euphorbia **Origin:** Europe and Asia
**Description:** The juvenile plant has a stout, erect stem with leaves opposite with a bluish-green colour. A white line runs the lengths of the leaf. The mature plant has a bush form. Has a **poisonous** milky latex. Always wear gloves and glasses during removal.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Leaf-like flowers during spring-summer.
**Dispersal:** Seed pods explode ending seeds up to 2 m, water movement assists.
**Invades:** Bushland, roadsides and waste areas.

# Spurge - Sea

*Euphorbia paralias*

***Status:*** *Environmental weed*

**Family:** Euphorbiaceae **Origin:** Mediterranean region
**Description:** A perennial herb to 90 cm with long taproot and clusters of yellow-green cup-like flowers borne on ends of longest stems. **Poisonous** when damaged, plant exudes a caustic milky sap which can harm skin and eyes. Always wear gloves and glasses when hand pulling.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Fruit consists of green, hairless oval capsules to 5 mm.
**Dispersal:** Seeds spread by ocean currents and wind.
**Invades:** Coastal primary sand dunes.

# St John's Wort

*Hypericum perforatum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Hypericaceae **Origin:** Europe
**Description:** A perennial herb to 1 m with numerous rust colored branches. Yellow flowers in spring-summer which have five petals with black dots along the margins. **Toxic** to stock if eaten.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds golden brown, pitted in sticky capsules.
**Dispersal:** By seed or runners, spread by animals, wind, slashing, road machinery.
**Invades:** Sandy or gravelly soils along roadsides, railway lines and degraded agricultural land.

# Sweet Briar Rose

*Rosa rubiginosa*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Roasaceae **Origin:** Europe, Western Asia
**Description:** A deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub to heights and widths of 3 m. Fragrant pinkish-white flowers in spring-early summer.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Oval fruits about 2 cm long maturing to red-orange over summer-autumn.
**Dispersal:** Seed is dispersed by birds, foxes and water.
**Invades:** Forms thickets,crowding and out-competing shrubs, preventing most overstorey regeneration. Invades grasslands, woodlands, rocky escarpments and riparian areas.

# Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Pittosporaceae **Origin:** Queensland, NSW, Vic
**Description:** Tree which occurs naturally through much of Gippsland. Masses of sweet-scented flowers in spring which develop into orange berries in autumn.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds develop in orange berries.
**Dispersal:** Becoming more widespread due to altered drainage patterns, reduced fire frequencies and increased dispersal by birds. Westward distribution due to popularity as a garden plant.
**Invades:** Dense foliage which reduces light levels which effects the composition of ground flora and leaf litter altering soil chemistry.

# Sweet Reed Grass *Glyceria maxima*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Poaceae **Origin:** Europe, Asia
**Description:** A tall perennial, aquatic rhizomatous grass with stout stems, purple at the base. Has been known to cause cyanide **poisoning** in stock.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds are produced on spikelets in mid-late summer.
**Dispersal:** By seed and rhizomes, was introduced as a pasture plant suitable for wet areas.
**Invades:** Creeks and dams with the ability to form huge stands

# Thistles – Californian

*Cirsium arvense*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae (Compositae) **Origin:** Europe, Asia
**Description:** An erect perennial thistle with a creeping rootstock. The leaves are very dissected with spiny margins and white hairs underneath.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Heads of round purple-pink flowers appear in summer followed by seeds attached to hairs.
**Dispersal:** Reproduces from seed, creeping roots and rhizomes.
**Invades:** Poorly managed pastures, often rampant after cultivation.

# Thistles – Nodding

*Carduus nutans L.*

Status: State prohibited

**Family:** Asteracaea (Compositaea) **Origin:** Europe, Asia
**Description:** An erect perennial which grows as high as 2 m. The leaves are grey-green, deeply lobed and spiny continuing down the stem as wings. Large pinkish mauve flowers occur with a drooping head at end of branches.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Large disc-shaped flower heads contain hundreds of tiny individual flowers. Each plant may produce thousands of straw-coloured seeds adorned with plume-like bristles.
**Dispersal:** Seed is spread by wind, animals, machinery and in contaminated fodder.
**Invades:** Agricultural land.

# Thistles – Saffron

*Carthamus lanatus L.*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Mediterranean region, Asia
**Description:** Erect, often much-branched annual with narrow triangular leaves which terminate in a spine. Solitary light yellow flower heads are produced in summer.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds are brownish-grey, 3 mm long with a pappus of stiff bristles.
**Dispersal:** The large seeds are not carried far by wind, but will float in water and are spread by animals, vehicles and machinery. Contamination of grain has introduced it to new areas.
**Invades:** Pasture land with a low fertility.

# Thistles–Slender or Shore

*Carduus pycnocephalus and C. tenuiflorus*

Status: Regionally controlled

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

# Thistles – Spear

*Cirsium vulgare*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Europe, Asia, Africa
**Description:** An erect biennial plant, 50 cm to 1 m high. Divided leaves with spiny lobes. Purple flowers in summer.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds with hairs attached produced after flowering.
**Dispersal:** Wind, water, vehicles and animals.
**Invades:** Pastures and roadsides.

# Thistles – Variegated

*Silybum marianum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Asteraceae **Origin:** Mediteranean, Asia, Soviet Union
**Description:** An annual or biennial herb which can grow to 2.5 m. Leaves are variegated and hairy. Large purple flowers are produced at the end of branches in late spring-summer.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Each flower head can produce up to 200 seeds, each attached to a pappus of fine hairs.
**Dispersal:** Seed dispersed by wind, vehicles, machinery, animals and in contaminated hay.
**Invades:** Established and degraded pastures and on waste ground.

# Thornapples

*Datura spp.*

Status: Regionally controlled (East Gippsland & Port Phillip)

**Family:** Solanaceae **Origin:** South America

**Description:** An erect, vigorous annual with large leaves and much branched stems. Trumpet shaped white – pink flowers spring – summer. All parts of the plant, but particularly the seeds are **toxic.**

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

**Dispersal:** From seed in fodder and contaminated grain.

**Invades:** Pastures, roadsides and wastelands.

# Tree Tobacco

*Solarnum mauritianum*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Solanaceae **Origin:** Argentina

**Description:** Erect shrub to 3 m high with large leaves, grey-green on the underside and green on the upper surface. Purple flowers from autumn to spring. The plant is **poisonous** if eaten.

**Fruit/Seeds:** Pale yellow fruit.

**Dispersal:** Seeds spread by birds and dumping of garden rubbish.

**Invades:** Tends to occur along roadsides and railway lines.

# Tutsan

*Hypericum androsaemum*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Clusiaceae **Origin:** Western Europe and Mediterranean
**Description:** Erect perennial shrub to 1.5 m. Slender reddish stems with opposite leaves. Flowers produced in spring-summer have five yellow petals with numerous stamens.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Seeds are produced in pulpy, black capsules.
**Dispersal:** Seed is spread by birds, foxes, machinery and in soil and garden refuse.
**Invades:** Highly invasive in cool moist forest environments. Tolerates deep shade and open sunny environments with sufficient moisture.

# Wandering Jew

*Tradescantia fluminensis*

Status: Environmental weed

**Family:** Commelinaceae **Origin:** South America
**Description:** A rampant, smothering creeper with shiny dark green leaves and small white flowers spring-summer.
**Fruit/Seeds:** Reproduces by stolons which produce roots on contact with the ground.
**Dispersal:** Nodes readily take root if in contact with moist soil. Tends to proliferate along waterways as plant fragments move downstream. Often initiated from dumping of garden rubbish.
**Invades:** Moist shaded positions along waterways, roadsides.

# Water Hyacinth

*Eichhornia crassipes*

Status: State Prohibited

**Family:** Pontederiaceae **Origin:** Brazil

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

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

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

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

# Wild Carrot

*Daucus carota*

Status: Environmental Weed

**Family:** Umbrelliferae **Origin:** Europe, Western Asia & North Africa

**Description:** A stout, hairy, biennial which grows from 30 to 150 cm high. With fern-like leaves and large white or pinkish flowers that have slender unequal rays which curve inwards at maturity. When crushed the plant smell like carrots.

**Fruit/Seeds:** Each flower contains two seeds.

**Dispersal:** The fruits are covered in hooked spines, which aid dispersal by clinging to the fur of passing animals. Also spread via machinery and slashers. Invades: Roadsides, railway lines and a variety of native habitats.

# Willows - Basket

*Salix spp.*

# Willows - Pussy

*Salix spp.*

Status: Environmental Weed

**Family:** Salicaceae **Origin:** Eurasia, Africa, America

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

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

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

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

# Wild Watsonia

*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*

Status: Regionally controlled

**Family:** Iridaceae **Origin:** South Africa

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

**Fruit/Seeds:** Reproduces by stem bulbils and corms.

**Dispersal:** By slashing and grading of roadsides, in soil, garden refuse.

**Invades:** Roadsides, railway lines and a variety of native habitats.

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

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www.greeningaustralia.org.au

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# Contact Details

**Bass Coast Shire Council**

**Telephone:** 1300 BCOAST (5671 2211)

**Website:** www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

## For advice about weed identification and control, please contact the following organisations:

**Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning Offices**

| | |
|---|---|
| Leongatha | 5662 9900 |
| DELWP Customer Service Centre | 136 186 |
| DELWP Website | www.depi.vic.gov.au |

**Weed Facilitators**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bass Coast Landcare Network | (03) 5678 2335 |
| Website | www.basscoastlandcare.org.au |

**Chemical Companies**

Phone the 1800 number on the label of the product.