

WEEDS OF THE MOORABOOL SHIRE



A Field Identification Guide

Glossary

ACUP - Agricultural Chemical Users Permit

Annual - A plant that grows, flowers and sets seed and dies within one year.

CCMA - Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

Indigenous flora - A group of plants which have adapted naturally to local climatic and soil conditions.

Noxious weed - Declared under legislation and a problem to natural areas, primary production, the environment or affecting human health.

Perennial - A plant that grows, flowers and sets seed, repeating the cycle over several years.

PPWCMA - Port Phillip Westernport Catchment Management Authority.

Riparian - Zone along the sides of a waterway.

Acknowledgements

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Background information:

- Blood, K. 2001. Environmental Weeds A Field Guide for SE Australia.
- Lamp, C and Collet, F. 2002. Field Guide to Weeds in Australia.
- North Central Catchment Management Authority. 2003. Weeds of the North Central Region.
- Muyt, A. 2001. Bush Invaders of South-East Australia
- Parsons, W and Cuthbertson, E. 2001. Noxious Weeds of Australia.
- Richardson FJ, Richardson RG and Shepherd RCH, 2016. Weeds of the South-East
- Port Phillip and Westernport CMA, Port Phillip and Westernport Weed Action Plan 2000—2005.

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to provide a locally relevant field guide that will assist land managers to identify the main weeds in the Moorabool Shire.

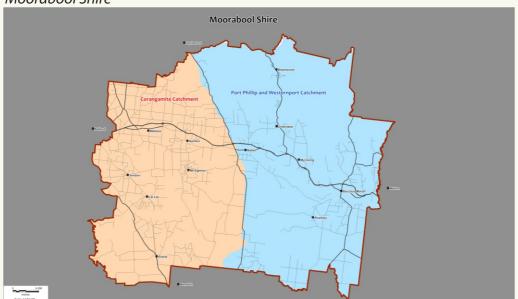
This booklet addresses some of the weeds which are declared under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 and those which currently have a widespread impact on agricultural and environmental values in the region.

There are many weed species which have not been included but should be recognized as having potential to cause agricultural and environmental problems in future.

The Moorabool Region

The semi-rural municipality of Moorabool extends from the Victorian Volcanic Plains, west of Melbourne, to the rich foothill forests between Ballarat and Daylesford. The region has significant agricultural and horticultural areas but also large areas of public land, including the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Lerderderg State Park, Werribee Gorge State Park plus many other small reserves.

Due to its varied and diverse topography, native vegetation and land use, Moorabool Shire has a high diversity in weed species. This can include semi-arid weed species, more typical of the drier inland areas, found in the south east of the Shire, through to species more reliant on high rainfall in the north east of the Shire.



Moorabool Shire

Legal Classifications

In Victoria, Declared Noxious Weeds are classified under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994 in the following categories.

State Prohibited weeds: include those that do not yet occur in Victoria but pose a significant threat if they were to invade. Control of these weeds is the responsibility of Agriculture Victoria *Regionally Prohibited weeds:* are not widely distributed in the region but are capable of spreading further. Control is the responsibility of the private and public land managers on their land.

Regionally Controlled weeds: exist in the region and are usually widespread. Continued control measures are required to prevent further spread to clean land. Control is the responsibility of the private and public land managers on their land.

Restricted weeds: These weeds are a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in another State or Territory of Australia. Trade in these weeds, and materials containing them is prohibited.

Undeclared Weeds

These weeds are not classified under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994, but are recognised as a threat to agriculture and the environment.

Weed of National Significance

Thirty two Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) have been agreed on by Australian governments based on their invasiveness, potential for spread and environmental, social and economic impacts. A strategic plan for each WoNS was developed to define responsibilities and identify strategies and actions to control the weed species.

Environmental Weeds

Environmental weeds are plant species that predominately invade natural areas and compete with or choke out native plant species.

Environmental weeds cause damage to indigenous plant communities by competing for light, nutrients, water, space and pollinators.

Weed species also tend to provide harbour for pest animal species and some can be poisonous to animals and stock.

Some environmental weeds may have been introduced accidentally, however most are introduced garden plants that have escaped into the environment.

The most common methods of spread are from dumped garden waste, planting in inappropriate areas, vehicles and from birds, animals and wind spreading seed.

How Weeds Spread

Weeds may be spread in many different ways.

- Seed eaten or carried by animals
- · Seed carried on machinery and vehicles
- · Movement of seed in soil and fodder
- Garden escapees or dumping of garden waste
- Seed or plant pieces spread by digging
- · Seed or plant pieces carried by wind or water

The best times to control a weed species are highlighted by green.

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Hand removal

Hand pulling to remove small infestations or isolated plants.

Chemical Control

An appropriate herbicide is applied to the weeds by spray application or cut and paint. Herbicides are best applied to seedlings or actively growing plants. Always read and follow the chemical label instructions. Ask your local farm supplies outlet for the appropriate herbicide for your weed.

An Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) is necessary for the use of some herbicides and the Chem Cert training necessary to obtain an ACUP is recommended for every user as it gives insight into appropriate methods and safety measures. Contact your local landcare group to find out if there is a course running in your area.

Mechanical Control

An excavator or backhoe can be used to grab and remove large plants and then stockpile ready for burning. Wherever feasible try to ensure all root matter has been removed. Slashers can be used on extensive infestation that are not too tall or woody. Groomers can be used for large infestations to quickly turn them to mulch. Follow up control is always needed after mechanical removal.

Fire

Burning will destroy many seeds and break the dormancy of others. The newly germinated seeds may then be eradicated by mechanical or chemical methods.

Long Term Management

Pasture Improvement

A program of nutrient improvement, compaction reduction and appropriate pasture selection and grazing management to improve vegetation cover and maximize competition with weeds.

Revegetation

A program of revegetation after other weed control techniques using indigenous plants to out compete future weed growth.

Further Information

Links to further detailed information on weed species and methods of control can be found at: APVMA/Pubcris Agriculture Victoria website Further assistance can be found from Agriculture Victoria, local Landcare or Friends Groups

AFRICAN BOXTHORN Boxthorn, Cape Boxthorn

Lycium ferocissimum

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



A large, rounded, densely branched, very thorny shrub that can grow up to 4m tall.

FLOWERS: White with purple markings in the throat. Small and scented, occurring singly or in pairs. Appearing mainly in summer.

LEAVES: Glossy green, 1-4cm long and up to 2cm wide, with short stalks, formed in clusters. Oblong and fleshy when plant is active.

STEMS: Erect, woody, light brown to grey, much branched, bearing spines up to 15cm at the end of main branches. Smaller thorns on sides and end of smaller branches. **FRUIT:** A short stemmed berry (0.5-1.2cm long) changing from green to red when mature. Each berry contains numerous seeds.

SEED: Smooth, yellow to light brown, and dull with small raised dots on the surface. 2.5mm long and 1.5mm wide

SPREAD: Commonly spread by birds. Reproduces by seeds. Cut stems can reshoot. **CONTROL:** Hand pulling young plants year-round.

Cut stem of larger plants near ground and immediately paint stump with herbicide (cut stumps may re sprout), or spray foliage with herbicide in summer. Cut material should be burnt at the earliest safe opportunity as it acts as highly effective rabbit harbour. Grooming and mechanical control can be considered for large patches, this leave sharp debris that can puncture tyres.

NOTES: Take care when controlling this plant. Thorns can grow up to 15cm long and cause a festering wound. Wear boots, long pants, sleeves and gloves for protection.

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BLACKBERRY

Rubus fruticosus complex

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



Prickly and sprawling canes that tangle to form a thicket that can be up to several metres tall. Found in moister areas with fertile soil.

FLOWERS: White or pink (2-3cm wide) in clusters at the end of short branches. Appearing during summer.

LEAVES: Dark green on the upper side and lighter underneath with little serrations around the edge. Leaves may shed in winter.

STEMS: Thorny stems, may be erect, or arched, green to reddish purple with new plants forming at the stem tips.

FRUIT: A composite berry changing colour from red to black as it ripens, each small berry contains one seed.

SPREAD: Commonly spread by birds. Reproduces by seeds. Cut stems can reshoot.

CONTROL: Spray leaves with herbicide in spring before fruiting. Slash, groom or brushcut large infestations to remove rabbit harbour then spray regrowth to minimise herbicide needed. Hand removal must be very thorough as remaining roots and stems will reshoot. Cutting of stems and painting with herbicide is possible but fiddly. Biocontrol: Blackberry leaf rusts slows plant vigour.

NOTES: Blackberry species complex is a group of at least 9 species and hybrids so significant variation can be observed in the field.

BONESEED

Chrysanthemoides monilifera

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Yellow daisy-like flowers, borne in small clusters at the tips of branches. **LEAVES:** Slightly fleshy in nature, alternately arranged on stalks.

STEMS: Much-branched, green or purplish green, becoming woody with age.

FRUIT: Green when young and turning black with maturity.

SEED: Single hard seed in each fruit. Very durable in the soil. When dry, the seed is a bone colour giving the plant it's name.

SPREAD: Birds are a main means of spread. Rabbits and foxes also spread

CONTROL OPTIONS: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

Herbicide spray June to October.

- Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. Many years follow up will be needed to exhaust seed bank

NOTES: Fire can be used (in the right conditions with careful control) on large infestations to reduce adult plants and stimulate seeds to germinate helping to exhaust seed bank. Seedlings can then be followed up with herbicide.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Olearia sp. (daisy bushes), Cassinia aculeata (Common Cassinia)

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CAPE BROOM Broom, Canary Broom

Genista monspessulana

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Bright yellow, pea-like, to 1.2cm long on short stalks, singly or in clusters. **LEAVES:** Short stalks and made up of three leaflets, hairy underneath. Middle leaflet is longer than the others.

STEMS: Upright, woody and ridged.

FRUIT: A brown or black flat silky pod containing 5-8 seeds, coiled after seed release. **SEED:** Dark brown to black, 2mm, rounded smooth and shiny.

SPREAD: Birds are a main means of spread. Rabbits and foxes also spread

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round. Herbicide spray August to November. - Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with an appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. Many years follow up will be needed to exhaust seed bank.

NOTE: Fire may be used (in the right conditions with careful control) on large infestations to reduce adult plants and stimulate seeds to germinate helping to exhaust seed bank. Seedlings can then be followed up with herbicide.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Pultenaea or Daviesia (Pea bushes), Goodia lotifolia (Golden Tips)

COTONEASTER

Cotoneaster sp.

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: White clusters, each flower about 8mm wide with five petals, flowering spring and summer.

LEAVES: 3-8cm long with a dull green surface and a woolly surface beneath. **STEMS:** Dark brown, with flexible new tips

SEED: A red berry containing two seeds persisting over winter.

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

Herbicide spray August to November.

- Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. Many years follow up will be needed to exhaust seed bank

NOTE: Common in older gardens. Problem plants can jump the garden fence.

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ENGLISH BROOM

Cytisus scoparius subsp.scoparius

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Bright yellow, pea-like 2-2.5cm long, occurring singly or in pairs. **LEAVES:** Each leaf consists of three soft leaflets.

STEMS: Green to brown with prominent ridges, erect, woody multi branched. **FRUIT:** A brown or black pod, 5cm long containing 6-20 seeds, coiled after the release of the seeds.

SEED: Yellow brown, shiny, rounded, flattened 3-4mm long.

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

Herbicide spray late winter early spring

- Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. Many years follow up will be needed to exhaust seed bank

NOTES: Fire can be used (in the right conditions with careful control) on large infestations to reduce adult plants and stimulate seeds to germinate helping to exhaust seed bank. Seedlings can then be followed up with herbicide.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Daviesia leptophylla. (narrow-leaf bitter-pea)

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: *Daviesia leptophylla*. (narrow-leaf bitter-pea), Acacia *acinacea* (Gold Dust Wattle), *Viminaria juncea* (Golden Spray)

GORSE Furze

Ulex europaeus

STATUS: Weed of National Significance; Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Bright yellow pea-like flowers produced between July to October and March to May.

LEAVES: Dark green, narrow and spiny, 1-3cm long.

STEMS: Green when young, becoming ridged woody and spiny.

FRUIT: Dark coloured pod, containing 2-6 seeds

SEED: Green to brown, triangular in shape, smooth and shiny margins.

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

Herbicide spray as weather warms in spring and into summer before seed set - Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. Many years follow up will be needed to exhaust seed bank

Biocontrol gorse spider mite webs may be transferred to unaffected plants to transfer mites. Mites suck sap to reduce plant vigour and seed set.

NOTES: Fire may be used (in the right conditions with careful control) on large infestations to reduce adult plants and stimulate seeds to germinate helping to exhaust seed bank. You may need to run over the remaining burnt sticks with machinery to allow access for follow spraying. Seedlings can then be followed up with herbicide. Burns quite ferociously.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Hedge Wattle

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Acacia paradoxa (Hedge Wattle) Acacia verticillata (Prickly Moses)

HAWTHORN

Crataegus monogyna

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWCMA), Restricted Weed (CCMA)



FLOWERS: White, cream or pink, strongly scented, 8-12mm in diameter, in flat topped clusters at the end of small branches.

LEAVES: Green, variable, divided into lobes and coarsely serrated.

STEMS: Erect, multi-branched with many small branches ending in stout spines.

FRUIT: Clusters of deep red berries, 8mm in diameter.

SEED: One seed enclosed in berry flesh.

SPREAD: Birds are a main means of spread. Rabbits and foxes also spread

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

Herbicide spray as weather warms in spring and into summer before seed set - Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. Many years follow up will be needed to exhaust seed bank

NOTES: Large thorns to be avoided

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria) or Melicytus dentata (Tree Violet) to maintain habitat.

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HOLLY

llex aquifolium

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Small off-white flowers are borne in the leaf axils, developing into a red berry in autumn on female trees.

LEAVES: Dark green and wavy with irregular prickles along the margin when mature. Young leaves are rounded.

STEM: Pale grey and smooth.

SEED: Four to five per berry, held on the tree over winter.

SPREAD: Birds are a main means of spread. Rabbits and foxes also spread

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

- Herbicide spray in spring.

- Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide.

NOTES: most likely in cooler wetter areas such as Blackwood, Mt Egerton

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: on small plants leaves are like *Grevillea sp. (eg steiglitziana, repens)* **NATIVE REPLACEMENTS:** *Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria), Acacia verticilata* (Prickly Moses), *Banksia marginata* (silver banksia)

SPANISH HEATH

Erica lusitanica

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: White to pink flowers, clustered at the end of short side branches.
LEAVES: Densely covered, narrow, arranged in rings around the stem.
STEMS: Brittle and woody.
FRUIT: A small capsule, about 3mm long.
SEED: 80-100 seeds per capsule.

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings year-round.

- Herbicide spray in spring

- Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. - Cut at ground level, wait for regrowth and spray regrowth to use low volume of herbicide

NOTES: seeds are very small and easily spread, so control before seeding. Sometimes mistaken for being a native plant.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Correa sp (Native Fuchsia) or Epacris impressa (Common Heath)

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SWEET BRIAR Briar Rose

Rosa rubiginosa

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Pink or white, 2.5-4cm in diameter, forming loose clusters at the ends of branches. Flowering in spring/summer

STEMS: Multi-stemmed, smooth when young but becoming prickly with maturity. Arched towards the top and bearing many thorns.

FRUIT: An orange to red capsule to 2cm long, with short spines.

SEED: Yellow 4-7mm long, numerous in each fruit, held within the fleshy fruit. **SPREAD:** Birds will disperse seeds. Lateral stems and roots will expand briars. **CONTROL:** Removal by digging, chemical spraying or cut and paint. Hand pull seedlings year-round.

- Herbicide spray in spring

- Cut stems near the ground and immediately paint the stumps with glyphosate or appropriate herbicide. This minimises off target damage and uses minimal herbicide. - Cut at ground level, wait for regrowth and spray regrowth to use low volume of herbicide

NOTES: seeds are very small and easily spread, so control before seeding. Sometimes mistaken for being a native plant.

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AFRICAN ORCHID

Disa bracteata

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Flowers in a dense spike, small and green with maroon tints.

LEAVES: Leaves in a rosette in early spring, with growth into a tall stem with long flat leaves.

SEED: Dust like and very easily spread.

CONTROL: The plant usually has two perennial underground tubers from which it regrows. Removal by digging or chemical spraying of each plant. Remove tubers when the soil is moist and bag and remove from site.

Removing seed heads before the seeds develop only may give short term control. Best done by placing a plastic bag over the seed head to prevent any seed drop. This is also the recommended method when roving tubers.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: sometimes confused with native orchids.

SOURSOB

Oxalis

Oxalis pes-caprae

STATUS: Restricted Weed.



FLOWERS: Bright yellow, trumpet shaped, opening in sunlight and closing in dull conditions. Flowers in winter and early spring.

LEAVES: Green, consisting of 3 heart shaped leaflets. Leaflets fold back at night and in dull light.

STEMS: Erect, fleshy, leafless, usually 10-30cm long.

BULBS/BULBILS/TUBERS: Bulbs are conical in shape with smaller bulbils surrounding them in clusters. Tubers form below the bulbs.

CONTROL: Removal by carefully digging out all tubers and chemical spraying. Usually needs repeat applications. Treat when bulb is exhausted (shrivelled) and tuber is thin.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Oxalis exilis or perennans (wood sorrel).

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WATSONIA

Watsonia meriana var. bubilifera

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: grows to 1.5m tall **LEAVES:** rigid, strap-like and sword -shaped **STEMS:** reddish brown. Bulbils often held on erect stems. **SEED:** forms bulbils on the stems that look like big seeds.

CONTROL: spreads by corms and stem bulbils. Avoid soil disturbance. May be slashed but must be before stem bulbils form or it will aid spread. Dig out and bag small infestations. May be sprayed with a non-selective herbicide or wick wiped.

NOTES: Common in some cemeteries and along a few roadsides e.g. the Brisbane Ranges National Park. There are several similar watsonias which also may be weedy but they do not have the stem bulbils.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Bulbine sp (Bulbine lily) Arthropodium strictum (Chocolate lily) Dianella admixta (Flax lily)

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ANGLED ONION Three cornered garlic

Allium triquetrum

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Bell-shaped and drooping, white with green stripe. **LEAVES:** fleshy to 50cm long with strong onion smell. **STEMS:** flower stalks have three-angled stem **SEED:** mature over spring **FRUIT:** 6mm diam, green and round, that hangs in a cluster **BULBS:** 5-10mm long and off white with short fibrous roots

CONTROL: Reproduces by seeds and bulbs. Plants may be dug out by hand when soil is moist. Ensure all bulbs are removed. If the plants have already flowered, then cut and remove and bag seed heads before removing the bulbs.

Plants may be treated with a non-selective or selective herbicide. Repeat applications may be needed. Treat in late winter when the bulbs have been exhausted. Dig up a few bulbs to check.

NOTES: A very persistent weed and dense stand crowd out other species.

BLUE PERIWINKLE

Vinca major

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Blue-purple petals twisted anticlockwise and squared at the ends from May to December.

LEÁVES: Dark green and shiny.

STEMS: Prostrate stems up to 1m long growing plantlets at the tips. **SEED:** Fertile seed is rarely produced.

CONTROL: Hand pulling, chemical spraying or mulching. To stop regrowth all stems, bits of plants and roots need to be removed. Apply chemical in warmer weather. It is difficult to control.

NOTES: Common in cemeteries, along some waterways and around old houses. Leaf has a waxy surface, so a penetrant can help herbicide access plant.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Hardenbergia violacea (false sarsaparilla, happy wanderer)

BLUEBELL CREEPER

Billardiera heterophylla

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Drooping flowers in small clusters at the tips of the branches Each flower has five small hairy sepals and five petals. Petals usually bright blue at first but colour fades with age.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged leaves elongated in shape, almost stalkless. Leaf surfaces hairy at first, but may become almost hairless with age.

STEMS: Older stems reddish-brown or greyish-brown in colour and somewhat angular in shape, younger stems greenish in colour and densely hairy.

FRUIT: Cylindrical fruit narrowed slightly towards each tip, dark green or purplish in colour. Birds spread the seed.

SEED: Small reddish-brown seeds 2-3 mm long.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and hand pulling.

NOTES: Becoming increasingly common in local bushland close to settlements where it has escaped from gardens e.g. Mt Egerton, Gordon

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: There are indigenous *Billariera* spp. but none have the blue flower or the glossy leaves.

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BRIDAL CREEPER

Asparagus asparagoides

STATUS: Weed of National Significance, Restricted Weed.



FLOWERS: White, 1cm in diameter, appearing during August to September. **LEAVES:** Glossy green, alternate and oval with pointed tips. **STEMS:** Slender, branching and twining, to 3m long where supported. **FRUIT:** A round berry to 6-10mm turning red, sticky when mature. **SEED:** Black, shiny, 3-4mm in diameter.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and hand pulling. Hand removal of underground tubers is only effective if all tubers are removed.

Biocontrol: leafhoppers, rust fungus and leaf beetles have been released in Australia. These control agents can be moved from effected plants to unaffected populations to reduce their vigour.

NOTES: A very persistent weed and dense stands strangle other species. The many small tubers can take treatment over several seasons to exhaust

ENGLISH IVY

Hedera helix

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Greenish, small and inconspicuous in large clusters **LEAVES:** Dark green, glossy and lobed or hand-like. **STEMS:** Aerial roots along the stems for attachment. **SEED:** A dark blue-black berry which germinates in spring.

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings and small rooted pieces, removal by digging, chemical spraying or cut and paint mature plants. To stop regrowth all stems, bits of plants and roots need to be removed.

NOTES: A very persistent weed and dense stands strangle other species. Often climbs trees. Herbicides that kill lvy can also kill the trees on which they climb, so care must be taken.

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AMSINCKIA Fiddleneck, Burrweed

Amsinckia spp

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWPCMA), Regionally Prohibited Weed (CCMA).



FLOWERS: Flowers bright yellow to slightly orange and positioned on one side of the stem. They have five fused petals forming a trumpet-shape.

LEAVES: Young plant leaves spear-shaped with long stiff bristles on the upper surface. Adult leaves lance-shaped.

STEMS: Stems green, branched or sometimes unbranched and covered with fine, stiff hairs or bristles. They grow erect to a height of 30-70 cm.

FRUIT: Bristly husk or burr which surrounds an egg-shaped group of four nutlets with each nutlet containing a single seed.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying & removal by digging.

NOTES: plant contains alkaloids that can be toxic to stock

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ARTICHOKE THISTLE

Cynara cardunculus

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWPCMA), Regionally Prohibited Weed (CCMA).



FLOWERS: Purple to blue in 7-13cm heads at the end of the stems. Surrounded by stiff spines and flowering during summer.

LEAVES: Base grey-green leaves up to 90cm long but shorter towards the top. Deeply toothed with each tooth ending with a sharp spine.

STEMS: Upright, strongly ribbed and covered in hairs. Up to 2m in height.

SEED: Brown or black, streaked length wise 6-8mm long, wind dispersed.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and removal by digging. Dig out seedlings before tap root thickens. Apply herbicide before the flower stem lengthens.

NOTES: Chemical treatment is best done when plants are young to prevent basal leaves from smothering large areas, and to minimise the amount of chemical needed.

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BATHURST BURR

Xanthium spinosum

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Inconspicuous creamy green flowers formed at the end of the stems and leaf nodes during summer.

LEAVES: Shiny dark green above and pale green and downy underneath. Leaves are alternate and clasp the stem.

STEMS: Greenish yellow and covered in fine with sharp golden spikes.

FRUIT: Straw coloured burr covered with small hooks.

SPREAD: Often spread through fodder and livestock movements

CONTROL: Chemical spraying, pasture improvement and removal by digging.

NOTES: seeds and seedlings are toxic to livestock. Burrs contaminate wool and cause injury. Take great care when bringing in hay or livestock to avoid contamination. Only feed out hay in one area that can be quarantined and treated if necessary.

BLANKET WEED Galenia, Carpet Weed

Galenia pubescens

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: Solitary, inconspicuous and tubular in pink, white or yellow to 2-3mm. **LEAVES:** Alternate, oval with a smooth edge and leathery to touch. **STEMS:** Prostrate fleshy stems **SEED:** A three to five lobed capsule contains 2-5 black ribbed or triangular seeds.

CONTROL: Hand pulling and digging to remove plant and roots and chemical spraying.

NOTES: smothers other species. The small seeds have a hard seed coat so stay viable in soil for many years.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: *Einadia nutans* (Nodding Saltbush), *Atriplex semibaccata* (Creeping Saltbush)

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CALTROP

Tribulus terrestris

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWPCMA), Regionally Prohibited Weed (CCMA).



FLOWERS: Yellow, each with 5 petals, borne on short stalks in the axils of the smaller of each pair of leaves.

LEAVES: Darker on the upper surface than on the lower, arranged in pairs, opposite on branches and unequal in size.

STEMS: Numerous green to reddish brown stems radiating from a crown. It grows prostrate to 2 m long with many branches and fine hairs.

FRUIT: A woody burr with sharp rigid spines to about 6 mm long, with the burr about 1 cm in diameter. The burr splits into five wedge-shaped segments when ripe.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and removal by digging.

NOTES: actively inhibits the growth of nearby grasses. Toxic to sheep. Spines on the plants bindii fruit are sharp and damaging

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CAPEWEED

Arctotheca calendula

STATUS: Environmetal weed.



FLOWERS: Single flower head 2-6cm across. Dark coloured tubular flowers in the centre surrounded by pale yellow florets.

LEAVES: Elongated with toothed to lobed margins. Upper surfaces green, undersides whitish and hairy.

STEMS: Stemless except when flowering.

SEED: Dark brown seeds oblong in shape and covered in fluffy wool.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and removal by digging. Hand removal of small seedlings. If removing plants by hand then remove from the site as moisture in the flowers allow them to set seed.

NOTES: loves high fertility soils and disturbed sites. Can smother areas in early spring and leave bare patches in summer. Can have toxic levels of nitrate and cause milk taint.

FLEABANE

Conyza sp.

STATUS: Environmetal weed.



FLOWERS: Numerous on poorly arranged pyramidal panicles. White, pink or greenish in colour.

LEAVES: Grey-green, deeply indented, coarsely toothed and covered in fine hairs. **STEMS:** Erect multiple-branching stems covered with stiff hairs.

SEED: Compact seed heads with a parachute of fine hairs. The light fluffy seeds are readily dispersed by wind.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and removal by digging. Control before seed set.

NOTES: Commonly infests roadside gutters and is a problem for dryland cropping. *Is known to develop Glyphosate resistance*

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Senecio sp. (Fireweeds)

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GAZANIA

Gazania sp.

STATUS: Environmetal weed.



FLOWERS: Multi-petalled open faced daisy-like flower in autumn tones. **LEAVES:** Dark green, glossy on the upper surface with one main rib, to 20cm in length. **STEMS:** Stems held vertically above the foliage.

SEED: Numerous fine seeds, wind-borne.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying, removal by digging or hand pulling. Bag seed heads to prevent spread.

NOTES: Outcompetes most other species on roadsides it infests, severely reducing biodiversity. These roadsides are the last refuge for extremely threatened complex communities of grassland species

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: *Podolepis jaceoides* (Showy copper wire daisy), *Microseris sp.* (Yam daisy)

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HELIOTROPE

Heliotropium europaeum

STATUS: Environmetal weed.



FLOWERS: White cluster at the ends of stems or in leaf axils.

LEAVES: Grey green on top and lighter colour on the underside, egg shaped to oval or oblong. Unpleasant odour when crushed.

STEMS: Grey green, erect or bending upwards, usually branched, rough to touch **FRUIT:** 4 warty or wrinkled, 1-seeded nutlets.

SEED: Black to brown. Almost globular to tear shaped, about 1 mm diameter.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying and removal by digging.

NOTES: unpalatable and contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that can be toxic to stock and cause liver damage. Horses and pigs are particularly susceptible.

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HEMLOCK

Conium maculatum

STATUS: Regionally Controlled weed.



FLOWERS: White, 2-4mm in diameter, five petals, numerous in a dense head. **LEAVES:** Alternate, fern-like to 50cm long with deeply cut segments, emitting a strong odour when crushed.

STEMS: Long marked with grooves and purple blotches.

FRUIT: Grey or brown, consisting of two sections each 2-4mm long, arched with five prominent ribs.

CONTROL: Hand pulling, removal by digging, chemical spraying or cover with mulching. Limit spread by controlling before seed set. Seed may ripen as cut stems dry out.

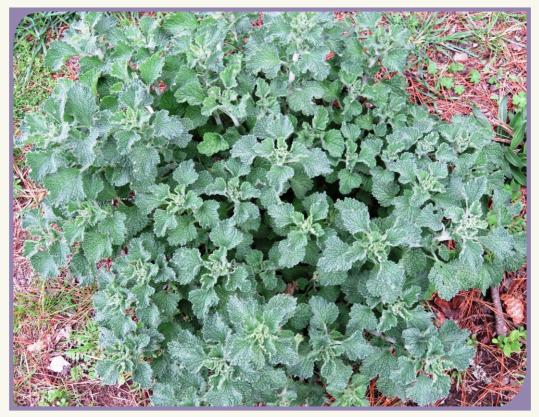
NOTES: Very TOXIC - all parts are toxic to humans including Socrates. Ensure good hygiene.

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HOREHOUND

Marrubium vulgare

STATUS: Regionally Controlled weed.



FLOWERS: White in dense rounded clusters surrounding the stem at the leaf junction. **LEAVES:** Blue green with a silvery appearance, crinkled and leathery, to 7cm diameter with serrated edges.

STEMS: Woody at the base, covered with dense hairs and branched at the top. **FRUIT:** A burr made up of backward curved hooked spines.

SEED: Brown or black, 4 in each burr, to 2mm long and slightly roughened.

CONTROL: Hand pulling, burning, removal by digging or chemical spraying.

NOTES: unpalatable to stock. Seeds can cause severe wool matting causing downgrading. Often found with rabbit disturbance especially at warrens. Has been used as medicinal herb.

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PATERSONS CURSE Salvation Jane

Echium plantagineum

STATUS: Regionally Controlled weed.



FLOWERS: Purple, trumpet shaped to 3cm long in curved clusters at the end of stems from August to September.

LEAVES: Rosette and basal leaves oval to 25cm long, with prominent veins. Stem leaves are smaller and clasp the stem.

STEMS: Usually several stems arising from the base and covered with hairy bristles. **SEED:** Brown to grey, 2-3mm long. Strongly wrinkled and pitted.

CONTROL: Removal by digging, pasture improvement, burning and chemical spraying. Biocontrol crown weevil (Mogulones larvatus) can be moved to unimpacted populations to reduce plant vigour and often cause plant death.

NOTES: A weed of open areas. Readily spread via hay. Unpalatable and contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that can be toxic to stock and cause liver damage. Horses and pigs are particularly susceptible.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Arthropodium strictum (Chocolate lily), Eryngium ovinum (Blue devils)

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PRAIRIE GROUND CHERRY Cape Gooseberry

Physalis viscosa

STATUS: Regionally Controlled weed.



FLOWERS: Yellow, bell-shaped to 3cm diameter. Produced in summer on short stalks in upper leaf axils.

LEAVES: Light green, lance shaped with wavy margins and fine hairs on veined edges. **STEMS:** Branched, spreading, and ribbed with very short hairs.

FRUIT: A Chinese lantern-like case containing 1 orange berry, 1-1.5cm diameter. **SEED:** Yellow or light brown, numerous.

SPREAD: birds & foxes disperse seed. Cultivation causes extensive local spread as pieces of root longer than 1.5cm can produce new plants.

CONTROL: Hand pull seedlings and chemical spraying.

NOTES: Annual or short-lived perennial. Actively displaces desirable species. May be toxic, but its foliage is rarely eaten by stock.

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SPEAR THISTLE

Cirsium vulgare

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWCMA), Restricted Weed (CCMA)



FLOWERS: Pinkish purple, 3-5cm in diameter either solitary or in small clusters on the branch tips. Flowers from late spring to autumn.

LEAVES: Dark green, rough and hairy on upper surface, whitish beneath with spiky margins. Much branched towards the top.

SEED: Grey or light brown, flat in shape, 3- 5mm long with lengthwise markings. **SPREAD:** Wind, fodder and stock.

CONTROL: Pasture improvement, removal by digging and chemical spraying. Remove before seeding.

NOTES: Spikey basal leaves are unpalatable and smother desirable species. Other thistles such as Safron, Slender or Variegated should be controlled in a similar manner.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Arthropodium strictum (Chocolate lily), Eryngium ovinum (Blue devils)

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ST JOHNS WORT

Hypericum perforatum

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed



FLOWERS: Bright yellow, with 5 petals in clusters at the end of the branches, occurring late spring and summer.

LEAVES: Opposite, to 3cm long, small oil glands give a perforated appearance.

STEMS: Several reddish woody stems rise from the base.

FRUIT: A sticky, narrowly ovoid capsule, to 8mm long.

SEED: Dark-brown or black, 1mm long, cylindrical and pitted.

CONTROL: Removal by digging or chemical spraying during the flowering period before fruit browns off. Manual removal should be limited to small plants as larger plants break off. Can be suppressed by competition.

NOTES: Continued grazing may cause hypericin build up to poison stock. Hold the leaf up to the light to see oil glands that look like perforations.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Hypericum graminium (Small St John's Wort)

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WILD TEASEL

Dispasacus fullonum

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWCMA), Restricted Weed (CCMA)



FLOWERS: Pink, purple or lilac heads are solitary at the end of branches, surrounded by long upwardly curved bracts.

LÉAVES: Large rosette leaves, rough with prickles along scalloped margins.

STEMS: Grey-green ridged or angled.

SEED: Yellow to grey brown, rectangular 3-5mm long and 1-1.5mm wide.

CONTROL: Removal by digging and chemical spraying at rosette stage. Tap root needs to be removed well below the spoil surface and before seeding.

NOTES: A weed of neglected and disturbed sites that displaces desirable species. Was once spread for use in the carding stage of wool processing.

NATIVE REPLACEMENTS: Eryngium ovinum (Blue devils)

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CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

Nassella neesiana

STATUS: Weed of National Significance, Restricted Weed.



FLOWERS: A loose flowering head to 40cm long.

LEAVES: Narrow, hairless or sparsely hairy, flat or slightly in-rolled leaves, up to 30cm long and 5mm wide.

SEED: Seed is produced at swellings along the stem and at the leaf base. The seed is 8-10mm long with an awn or tail bent at 2 points. There is a distinct ring (corona) where the awn meets the seed. The presence of a corona distinguishes it from native spear grasses. The bracts around the seed are purple.

CONTROL: Pasture management, chemical spraying, burning and revegetation.

NOTES: Slashing alone will not control this grassy weed. Seeds are also produced at stem nodes and slashed plants may still go onto set seed. Seeds can be damaging to stock.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES: Similar to some of the native Austrostipa spp. (Spear Grass)

LOVE GRASS African Lovegrass

Eragrostis curvula

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed.



FLOWERS: Large open panicle, loose and spreading as it matures **LEAVES:** Leaf sheath enclosing the stem, with a spreading blade often arched towards the ground. Leaf blades roughly textured.

STEMS: Slender and upright, hairless.

SEED: Tiny (<1mm), oval and variable in colour. Reproduces by seed.

CONTROL: Large infestations may be burnt in spring before flowering. Small infestations may be dug out before seeding. If in seed you will need to cut and bag the heads before digging out the crowns. Chemical spraying. Repeat applications may be needed on mature infestations.

NOTES: Very low nutrition value for stock. Actively displaces desirable species

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES: Similar to some of the native *Eragrostis* spp.

PHALARIS Canary Grass

Phalaris aquatica

STATUS: Environmental Weed.



FLOWERS: A tall erect perennial grass with a cylindrical spike 15-125mm long. **LEAVES:** Mainly at the base but also up the stems, to 50cm long and 20mm wide, flat bluish green and clasping the stem.

STEMS: To 1.5m in height, upright habit.

SEED: Light brown, hairy, about 2.5mm long and 1.2mm wide. Spread by animals, machinery, soil, vehicles and water.

CONTROL: Heavy grazing or regular slashing to reduce seed set. Dig or spot spray isolated plants and remove the seed head.

NOTES: An invasive weed on roadsides and outcompetes native plants and increases the flame height in a fire.

NATIVE REPLACEMENT: Themeda triandra (Kangaroo grass)

SERRATED TUSSOCK

Nassella trichotoma

STATUS: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed



FLOWERS: Distinctive dark purple colour on delicate stems.

LEAVES: Tightly rolled leaf like a needle. The leaf base is whitish with upward pointing barbs on the leaf blade to a height of 60cm.

STEMS: Delicate and supple.

SEED: Self-fertilised sharp seeds are held in the leaf nodes and at the base of stems. Seed head is easily blown in the wind.

SPREAD: dry seed head come off plant in December & January and blow across landscape gathering on fences and shelterbelts. Also spread by stock and fodder.

CONTROL: kill adult plants by chipping out, cultivation or spraying. Establish a perennial pasture to provide long term control.

NOTES: Extremely low nutrition value and palatability. Burns very hot. Invasion can be resisted by good competition in open pasture. Leaves are persistently well rolled and about the diameter of a sowing needle, most native look-alikes have a flat leaf or a central fold to the leaf. Plants stay persistently erect when mown or grazed.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: Several native grass species such as *Poa* spp. (Common Tussock Grass), *Rytidosperma* spp. (Wallaby Grass)

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SPINY RUSH

Juncus acutus

STATUS: Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWCMA), Restricted Weed (CCMA)



FLOWERS: Small, green to reddish brown, in clusters near the top of the stem, all year round.

LEAVES: Dark green, stem-like, tapering to a very sharp spine.

STEMS: Numerous sharp pointed stems, emerging from the base at angles.

FRUIT: A brownish three-celled capsule, pointed at the tip.

SEED: Numerous in each capsule 1mm long, irregularly shaped with papery attachments.

CONTROL: Removal by digging, burning and chemical spraying.

NOTES: Tolerates salt so can be an indicator of salinity.

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKE: There a several species of native rushes but none have the strong skin piercing spine.

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Cacti and succulents

PRICKLY PEAR

Opuntia stricta

STATUS: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed (PPWPCMA), Restricted Weed (CCMA)



FLOWERS: A succulent with yellow flowers on the fleshy segment margins. Flowers late spring to summer.

LEAVES: Small and shed as the segments mature.

STEMS: Fleshy, leaf like joints (cladodes).

FRUIT: Oval shaped, has a deep cavity on one end and tapers at the other.

SEED: Purple with carmine coloured seeds in a fleshy pulp.

CONTROL: Chemical spraying or stem injection, removal by digging and pasture improvement.

NOTES: Any portion of a stem broken off will take root and start to grow. Can act as effective rabbit harbour

NATIVE REPLACEMENT: Solanum laciniatum (Kangaroo apple) for fruit, Acacia paradoxa (Hedge Wattle), Melicytus dentata (Tree Violet) to maintain habitat.

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Cacti and succulents

WHEEL CACTUS

Opuntia robusta

STATUS: Regionally Prohibited Weed (PPWCMA), Restricted Weed (CCMA)



FLOWERS: Large yellow flowers, borne singly on fleshy bases along the upper margins of the segments.

LEAVES:

STEMS: Much branched series of flattened fleshy segments circular in shape. Covered in small raised bumps and spines.

FRUIT: Immature fruit green, turning pink/purple with maturity. Large round fruit with tufts of barbed bristles.

SEED: Large numbers in each fruit, brown in colour and 3-5mm across.

CONTROL: stem inject with herbicide. Begin by doing the top segments first then go back in a few weeks later and do the next few.

NOTES: very resistant to spray application of herbicide.

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Trees

PEPPERCORN Pepper Tree

Schinus molle

STATUS: Environmental Weed



FLOWERS: Flowers hang in clusters with male and female flowers on separate plants. **LEAVES:** Drooping fern-like leaves with many leaflets, emitting a peppermint aroma when crushed.

STEMS: Woody and smooth.

FRUIT: Flowers on the female trees develop into bright red berries with a hard stone. **SEED:** The seed is very hard and germinates best when passed through the guts of birds.

CONTROL: Hand removal of seedlings, cut down and paint stump, or drill and fill.

NOTES: sap and pollen can trigger allergies

NATIVE REPLACEMENT: Allocasuarina verticillata (Drooping Sheoak)

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Trees

RADIATA PINE

Pinus radiata

STATUS: Environmental Weed



FLOWERS: Inconspicuous small flowering cones. **LEAVES:** Soft dark green needles, growing in groups of three. **STEMS:** Dark grey with a strong pine fragrance. **FRUIT/SEED:** Winged paper-thin seeds are contained in oval pine cones.

CONTROL: Hand pulling, chemical spraying, cut and paint or burning. Seedling will not reshoot if cut below the lowest branches.

NOTES: Common escapee from softwood plantations (wildlings).

NATIVE REPLACEMENT: *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Cypress), *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Black Sheoak)

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Trees

Willows

Salix sp.

STATUS: Restricted Weed



FLOWERS: Upright catkins carry many tiny flowers. Male and female flowers occur on separate catkins or plants.

LEAVES: Deciduous. Long and narrow with finely toothed edges and usually paler on the underside.

STEMS: Single or multiple trunks, from 5 to 30 m tall. Minor stems often drooping. **FRUIT:** Two valved capsule containing many tiny seeds.

SEED: Small with long silky hairs attached to one end.

CONTROL: Removal by digging or cut and paint. Seedlings and small plants may be removed by hand digging. Plants up to 10cm diameter may be treated by cutting and painting with herbicide. If using the drill and frill method, then follow up may be required. Treatment is best in early autumn.

NOTES: Small sections of branches and twigs of willows may reshoot in not disposed of properly. There are several different species of willows such as Crack, Basket, Grey and Sallow. Many pose threats to waterways and hybridise easily.

NATIVE REPLACEMENT: Callistamon seiberi (River bottlebrush)

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