

stop the SPREAD

Noxious and Environmental Weeds are Spoiling our Environment

www.sydneyweeds.org.au

SYDNEY WEST – BLUE MOUNTAINS REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

Auburn City Council.....	9735 1222
Blue Mountains City Council.....	4780 5000
Department of Defence.....	4587 1929
Dept of Environment and Conservation - National Parks & Wildlife	
• Cumberland Area North region (Windsor area).....	4572 3100
• Blue Mountains Region.....	4784 7308
Dept of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources.....	9895 6211
Department of Lands (Crown land).....	9228 6666
Department of Primary Industries (Sydney region).....	4588 2100
Forests NSW.....	1300 655 687
Hawkesbury River County Council (HRCC).....	4577 5573
HRCC controls noxious weeds in:	
• Baulkham Hills Shire Council.....	9843 0555
• Blacktown City Council.....	9839 6000
• Hawkesbury City Council.....	4560 4444
• Penrith City Council.....	4732 7777
Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority.....	4828 6747
Holroyd City Council.....	9840 9840
Parramatta City Council.....	9806 5000
Penrith Lakes Development Corporation.....	4729 0044
Railcorp.....	131 500
Roads and Traffic Authority.....	131 700
Sydney Catchment Authority.....	4725 2100
Sydney Water.....	132 092
Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority.....	9895 7536
Upper Parramatta River Catchment Trust.....	9891 4633

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TREES AND SHRUBS



PRIVET

Botanical Name: *Ligustrum lucidum (broad)*
Ligustrum sinense (small)
Very common tree (4 to 10 m) and tall shrub (up to 3m) found in moist areas in gullies and home gardens. Broad leaf sp. has large dark green leaves arranged opposite on the stem, paler underside. Small leaf sp. has small narrow, wavy leaves. Native to China.
Flowers/Fruit: Small, white, strongly scented flowers. Sprays of purple black berries occurring in winter.
Dispersal: Birds and water.
Declared Noxious: Blue Mountains, Parramatta and Hawkesbury River County Councils. (Holroyd and Auburn Councils are seeking declaration in their areas.)



BITOU BUSH/BONESEED

Weed of National Significance
Botanical Name: *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*
Shrub to 2m. There are two forms: a thick coastal dune variety with rounded leaves (subspecies rotundata), and an upright plant with coarsely toothed leaves (subsp. monilifera). Native to S. Africa.
Flowers/Fruit: Golden yellow, daisy flowers appearing mostly in spring to early summer. Clusters of purple black berries.
Dispersal: Birds
Declared Noxious: Parramatta, Blue Mountains, Auburn and Holroyd Councils.



RHYS

Botanical Name: *Toxicodendron succedaneum*
A shrub/small deciduous tree to 4m. Compound leaves, turning brilliant red in autumn. Native to China, Japan and Himalayas.
Flowers/Fruit: Very small, creamy white, flowers in spring. Clusters of pale brown berries (5 to 7mm) turning papery on ripening.
Dispersal: Birds
Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.

Special Note: This plant can cause severe dermatitis and swelling of the face if any part of the plant makes skin contact (the sap causing the most severe reaction).



CAPE BROOM

Botanical Name: *Genista monspessulana*
Flowers/Fruit: A woody shrub, with many branches and growing to 3m tall. Small leaves and numerous yellow pea flowers. Flowers are in clusters and show up in Spring and Summer. Hard, black shiny seeds. Small hairy brown seed pod. Native to the Mediterranean.
Dispersal: Water, animals and mud on shoes or tyres.
Declared Noxious: Blue Mountains and Parramatta Councils.



AFRICAN BOXTHORN

Botanical Name: *Lycium ferocissimum*
Thorny, large shrub to 5m with lots of branches. Native to S. Africa.
Flowers/Fruit: Purplish-white flowers with darker purple blotches in centre, flowering mainly in spring and summer but sporadically throughout the year. Fleshy bright orange-red round berries.
Dispersal: Birds, animals and dumping. It suckers from root fragments if disturbed.
Declared Noxious: Hawkesbury River County and Blue Mountains Councils.



BLACK WILLOW

Weed of National Significance
Botanical Name: *Salix nigra*
Deciduous rapidly-growing tree to about 20m tall with 1-4 trunks. Non-drooping, shiny and red-brown twigs when exposed to sun, thin leaves and deeply fissured grey bark. Native to N. America.
Flowers/Fruit: Trees either male or female. Flower spikes (catkins) appear with leaves in spring. Male catkins yellow, female catkins green.
Dispersal: Seeds spread by water and new trees can sprout from broken branches. Major weed of streams and river banks.
Declared Noxious: Blue Mountains Council.



CASTOR OIL PLANT

Botanical Name: *Ricinus communis*
Tall shrub to 3m high common in waste areas. The stems are red tinged and the leaves are large, with suppressed veins. White sap. Native to Africa.
Flowers/Fruit: Reddish green, flowers in summer. Green to black spiny fruit capsule occurring in autumn.
Dispersal: Seed explosion from capsule, water.
Declared Noxious: Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd Councils.
Special Note: Seeds are highly toxic to humans and animals.



OCHNA, MICKEY MOUSE PLANT

Botanical Name: *Ochna serrulata*
Hardy shrub to 2m high grown commonly as garden hedge. Shiny, fine toothed and wavy leaves. Removal is made difficult due to the extended taproot. Native to South Africa.
Flowers/Fruit: Yellow flowers in spring. Crown of black berries surrounded by red "petals" occurring in autumn.
Dispersal: Birds and dumping of garden clippings.
Declared: Environmental Weed



GREEN CESTRUM

Botanical Name: *Cestrum parqui*
Woody shrub 2-3m tall with light green alternate leaves to 12cm long, giving off an unpleasant smell when crushed. Native to S. America.
Flowers/Fruit: Sprays of small tubular yellow-green flowers on end of stems from late spring to autumn. Shiny black egg shaped berries in clusters.
Dispersal: Birds and water.
Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.
Special Note: Highly poisonous to livestock, and toxic to humans.



AFRICAN OLIVE

Botanical Name: *Olea europaea subsp. africana*
Small evergreen tree 2-15m high, often grown as a garden ornamental and as a hedge. Narrow, dark green lance-shaped leaves, younger leaves have tiny brown scales on the underside. Native to South Africa.
Flowers/Fruit: White to cream tubular flowers, flowering in spring at the junction of the leaves and the stem. Green berries in winter ripening to purple-black. Produces thousands of seeds.
Dispersal: Foxes and birds.
Declared: Environmental Weed



BLACKBERRY

Weed of National Significance
Botanical Name: *Rubus fruticosus*
Shrub with scrambling stems generally 2 to 3m high. The arching stems are green to reddish purple and covered in prickles. The leaves are in groups of 3 to 5, are dark green and often shed in winter. Native to Europe.
Flowers/Fruit: White or pink, flowers in spring to summer. Black, aggregated berry occurring in late summer.
Dispersal: Birds, foxes, re-rooting stems, dumping.
Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.



COOTAMUNDRA WATTLE

Botanical Name: *Acacia baileyana*
Flowers/Fruit: A woody shrub growing to 6-10m – fine and silver-grey foliage. Flowers are small, soft golden balls.
Dispersal: Birds
Declared: Environmental Weed
Special Note: This is an Australian native plant, that has become invasive in areas outside of its original region. Cootamundra Wattle is a threat to an endangered species, Downy Wattle (*Acacia pubescens*) through interbreeding and cross pollination.



LANTANA

Weed of National Significance
Botanical Name: *Lantana camara*
Fast growing shrub with brittle scrambling branches, square stems with short prickles and opposite hairy leaves with distinctive smell. Native to S. America.
Flowers/Fruit: Small clusters of red, pink or yellow flowers all year. Black berries, fruiting most heavily in summer.
Dispersal: Birds, dumping, branches re-rooting at ground level.
Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.
Special Note: Large stands have sometimes been found to provide habitat for native animals.



HONEY LOCUST

Botanical Name: *Gleditsia triacanthos*
A long-lived fast growing deciduous tree which can quickly form dense thickets. Large thorns grow from the trunk and branches. Native to N. America.
Flowers/Fruit: Creamy yellow hanging flower stalks to 10cm long are borne in October-November. These are followed by brown flattened seed pods to 20-40cm long.
Dispersal: Animals and water. Suckering roots.
Declared: Environmental Weed.
Special Note: The large thorns can injure humans and animals. **Caution:** Always wear goggles and protective equipment when treating.



PAMPAS GRASS

Botanical Name: *Cortaderia selloana*
Large long-lived tussock over 2m high with numerous fluffy seedheads and sharp, cutting leaves. Native to S. America.
Flowers/Fruit: Pale flowers in summer. Each plume produces up to 100,000 seeds in late summer/autumn.
Dispersal: Waterways and wind dispersal.
Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils
Special Note: Smaller clumps can be dug out. Dry clumps are highly flammable and provide habitat for snakes and feral pests.



CASSIA

Botanical Name: *Senna pendula*
Flowers/Fruit: Small tree up to 5m tall. Its leaves are in 3-5 pairs of oval dark green leaflets that are opposite each other on the stem. Flowers are bright yellow clusters on the ends of the branches.
Dispersal: Birds
Declared: Environmental Weed
Special Note: Can be confused with the native Breyntia (*Breyntia oblongifolia*).



RHIZOMATOUS BAMBOO

Botanical Name: *Phyllostachys spp.*
Woody plant to 6m high with underground runners (rhizomes). Cultivated as ornamentals, they may become weeds in gardens, bushland and wasteland. Native to Asia.
Flowers/Fruit: Rarely appear (at intervals of over 100 years).
Dispersal: Produces erect shoots from rhizomes forming loosely clumped shoots over large areas, dumping.
Declared Noxious: Parramatta and Blue Mountains Councils.

SUCCULENT



MOTHER OF MILLIONS

Botanical Name: *Bryophyllum delagoense*
Slender erect succulent perennial with pinkish brown or greyish stems up to 60cm high with thick waxy leaves. Native to Madagascar.
Flowers/Fruit: Tubular red to orange flowers from May to October. Form drooping clusters at the top of long stalks.
Dispersal: Many minute plantlets on the circumference of each leaf are able to form a new plant when the leaves break off. Forms fast spreading colonies.
Noxious Weed: Hawkesbury River County Council.
Special Note: Highly toxic to stock.

CONTROL METHODS

- Noxious Weed**
- Physical removal**
Necessary for plants which regrow from bulbs, tubers, roots or other plant parts eg. runners.
- Cut and paint**
Suited to woody plants (shrubs, small trees) and vines. Cut the trunk or vine stem horizontally and as low as possible, then apply glyphosate herbicide immediately.
- Stem-scraping**
Scrape one side of the stem to expose the growing layer. Immediately apply glyphosate to the scrape.
- Low volume spraying only**
Suitable for weeds that are less than 1 metre in height. Spray with a herbicide that is registered for that weed. Do not spray woody weeds, shrubs or vines over 1 metre in height. (Note: for high volume spraying go to www.environment.nsw.gov.au/pesticides for information about the NSW Pesticides Act and Regulation, legal requirements for training and record keeping.)
- Filling**
Suited to trees. Horizontal cuts are made around the trunk and glyphosate applied immediately.
- Biological control**
Biocontrol agents are available for this weed. Biocontrol is important, but is also expensive and needs to be co-ordinated closely to ensure that maximum success is obtained in establishing the agent and controlling the weed. Biocontrol is not appropriate for use on individual properties.
For more information, contact your local council.

B

WHAT IS A WEED?

A weed is any plant out of place. Weeds take over a natural area by smothering the ground, blocking light and suppressing the growth of new native seedlings of grasses, groundcovers, shrubs and trees. Over time, the habitat for native wildlife is reduced, the normal bushfire patterns are altered, and the whole character and ecosystem of the bush changes.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

A noxious weed is one that legally must be controlled or removed under the *Noxious Weeds Act*. Weeds are declared noxious if they pose a significant problem to human health, the environment, livestock or the agriculture industry. In NSW, local Councils are responsible for controlling weeds in urban and rural areas under their responsibility. A Council can enforce penalties on landholders failing to control weeds on their property.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

In the Sydney West – Blue Mountains region, waterways and remaining areas of natural bushland are under threat due to the invasion of environmental weeds. These 'introduced' plants have few predators and usually produce vast quantities of seed, and so easily out-compete or smother native plants. This makes them very vigorous invaders, especially in disturbed areas and where soil nutrient levels are high, such as stormwater channels.

GARDEN ESCAPES

Weeds usually begin life in someone's backyard. Common garden plants can be spread through birds eating the seed or people dumping garden clippings into the bush.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. For a comprehensive list of weeds declared noxious in your area, contact your local Council or visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds
2. Remove any weeds identified in this brochure. There are bush regeneration contractors working in your area that may be able to assist with weed control.
3. Never dump garden waste in bushland areas.
4. Compost garden clippings on-site or place in Council green-waste bins for collection.
5. Replace unwanted plants with locally indigenous native species.
6. Join or start a Volunteer Bush Regeneration (Bushcare) Group through your local Council.

Sydney West – Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committee

The committee is made up of land managers from local Councils and statutory authorities within the Sydney West – Blue Mountains region.

The aims of the committee are to:

- promote the co-ordination of noxious and environmental weed management at the regional and catchment levels;
- provide a forum for information exchange between member organisations;
- increase awareness of noxious and environmental weeds in the broader community; and
- identify new problem weed species.

Weeds of the Blue Mountains region

There are many weeds that are more commonly found in areas of high altitudes.

Phone Blue Mountains City Council on 4780 5000 for a free copy of the booklet *Weeds of Blue Mountains Bushland*.
www.weedsbluemountains.org.au

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Visit these websites:
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds
www.sydneyweeds.org.au
www.weeds.org.au

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CLIMBERS/SCRAMBLERS



BALLOON VINE

Botanical Name: *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*

Vigorous climber growing as high as can be supported. Has the ability to kill native plants by smothering, blocking out sunlight. Common in wet areas especially along creeks. Native to Asia, Africa and America

Flowers/Fruit: White flowers, occurring in mid-summer. Pale green balloon-like papery capsule enclosing 3 black seeds. Seeds are produced in autumn.

Dispersal: By wind (whilst still attached to papery capsule) and water along creeklines.

Declared Noxious: Parramatta Council.



MORNING GLORY

Botanical Name: *Ipomoea indica*

A vigorous, twining, herbaceous perennial climber with heart-shaped leaves and hairy stems. Has the ability to smother trees and understorey vegetation. Common in moist, disturbed places. Native to Tropical Regions.

Flowers/Fruit: Distinct violet-blue flowers 5 to 8cm in diameter occurring anytime in the year, particularly in warm months. Does not set seed in Australia.

Dispersal: Dumping of stem fragments.

Declared Noxious: Parramatta Council.



JAPANESE HONEY SUCKLE

Botanical Name: *Lonicera japonica*

Flowers/Fruit: A vigorous, fast growing climber producing a tangle of twining woody stems. Commonly found in moist gullies. Adult leaves are oval shaped and in opposite pairs on the stem. Flowers are white to yellow in colour, fragrant and tube like.

Dispersal: Birds and dumped prunings.

Declared: Environmental Weed.



MADEIRA VINE

Botanical Name: *Anredera cordifolia*

Fleshy, green perennial climber (up to 40m). Leaves are succulent and rounded. Located in fertile soils, disturbed sites and wastelands. Native to S. America.

Flowers/Fruit: Greenish-cream-white 'lamb's tail' sprays occurring in autumn. Reproduction is mainly vegetative by the growth of aerial tubers along succulent stems. Also has underground tubers that survive after disturbance. This weed has recently started to seed in some parts of Australia.

Dispersal: Dumping. Aerial tubers fallen to the ground after disturbance will take root and generate new plants.

Declared Noxious: Parramatta Council.



BRIDAL CREEPER

Weed of National Significance

Botanical Name: *Asparagus asparagoides*

Dense scrambler or climber up to 3m long with alternate shining green leaves, turning yellow and dying back in summer. Underground mat of rhizomes that bear numerous fleshy tubers. Native to S. Africa.

Flowers/Fruit: Solitary white flowers in August-September. Each petal has a distinctive central green stripe. Green pea-sized berries, turning pink then burgundy.

Dispersal: Birds, water and dumping and rhizome growth.

Declared Noxious: Parramatta Council

Special Note: May be confused with the native species Wombat Berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*).



MOTH VINE

Botanical Name: *Araujia sericifera* or *Araujia hortorum*

Flowers/Fruit: Climber with twining stems, climbing to 6 m on supporting vegetation. Triangular leaves, 3–11 cm long. Pear shaped fruit looks like a choko, turning brown and woody with age. The fruit splits into numerous black seeds which have tufts of white silky hairs. Milky latex is exuded from damaged stems and leaves. Native to S. America.

Dispersal: Wind-blown seeds.

Declared: Environmental Weed

Special Note: Remove fruit and place into a bag before disposal.

GROUND COVERS/HERBS



ASTHMA WEED

Botanical Name: *Parietaria judaica*

A brittle perennial herb to 60cm high commonly found in rock crevices and walls. The stem (reddish coloured) and leaves have fine hairs allowing the plant to stick to clothing. Native to Europe.

Flowers/Fruit: Very small greenish flowers all year. Dark brown-black seed enclosed in a small nut, occurring prolifically in spring and autumn.

Dispersal: Wind, water, local re-rotting.

Declared: Environmental Weed.

Special Note: Pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as rhinitis, asthma and conjunctivitis. Always use gloves and mask when removing by hand.



ST JOHNS WORT

Botanical Name: *Hypericum perforatum*

Erect herb/shrub to 1.2m tall. Leaves show oil glands when viewed against light. Native to Europe.

Flowers/Fruit: Bright yellow flowers in clusters at branch tips in Spring and Summer. Dead brown flower stalks are visible at other times. Egg-shaped capsule with many small, dark pitted seeds.

Dispersal: Suckering, wind, animals, machinery and dumping.

Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.

Special Note: Invades unimproved overgrazed pastures. Toxins in leaves can cause infertility in grazing animals.



ASPARGUS FERN

Botanical Name: *Asparagus densiflorus*

Multi-branched herb forming a dense mat of tuberous roots. Resprouts from the crown, an area just below the ground where the stems join the roots. All of the crown must be cut out and removed. Branches grow to 60cm with a covering of small spines. Native to S. Africa.

Flowers/Fruit: White-pink clusters, flowering in late summer. Red berry, occurring winter/early spring.

Dispersal: Birds, dumping, rhizome growth.

Declared Noxious: Parramatta and Blue Mountains Councils.

Special Note: Climbing Asparagus (*Asparagus plumosus*) is a related weed species with feathery wiry fronds and black berries. Found in moist shady areas.



TRAD

Botanical Name: *Tradescantia fluminensis*

Formerly known as "Wandering Jew". A vigorously growing, succulent, spreading groundcover with alternating dark, shiny leaves and weak roots at each node. It prefers moist, nutrient rich habitats. Native to S. America.

Flowers/Fruit: White flowers in terminal clusters appearing in spring and summer. Does not produce viable seed in Australia

Dispersal: Can reproduce from a leaf or stem fragment. Water and dumping.

Declared: Environmental Weed

Special Note: This weed can be confused with the native ground cover, *Commelina cyanea*, which can be identified by its blue flowers and thick, stronger roots.

AQUATICS



ALLIGATOR WEED

Weed of National Significance

Botanical Name: *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

Terrestrial or aquatic (floating or rooted) herb found in slow moving and still water forming mats of interwoven roots and stems. Native to S. America.

Flowers/Fruit: Silvery white flowers in late summer. Seeds produced but rarely viable under Australian conditions. Reproduction is entirely vegetative.

Dispersal: Water flow dumping and machinery. Thick underlying mats of old stems can seriously impair water flow.

Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.

If you find this weed, notify your local council immediately.

Special Note: Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal. The fleshy tap roots are brittle and hard to control. Similar species is the native Lesser Joyweed (*Alternanthera denticulata*).



SALVINIA

Weed of National Significance

Botanical Name: *Salvinia molesta*

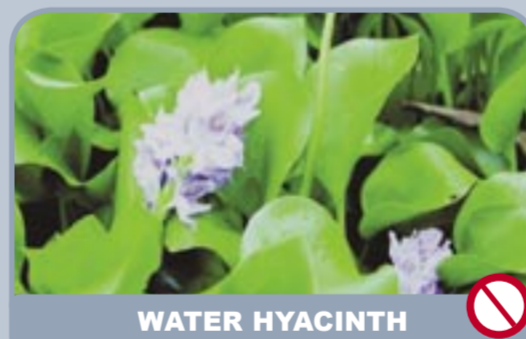
Rapidly growing free floating, mat forming aquatic fern capable of totally covering still or slowly moving waterways. Native to S. America.

Flowers/Fruit: Does not produce flowers or fruit.

Dispersal: Reproduces vegetatively and is spread by dumping, animals, water movement, wind, boats and flooding.

Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils. If you find this weed, notify your local council immediately.

Special Note: Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal.



WATER HYACINTH

Botanical Name: *Eichhornia crassipes*

Free-floating aquatic perennial herb growing in shallow to deep water/mud with stems 30-65cm tall. Bright, shiny, green leaves on swollen bladder like stems. Native to Brazil.

Flowers/Fruit: Showy large mauve flowers with yellow centre, from January to March. Seed may lay dormant for many years, in capsules at base of flower. Also reproduces vegetatively.

Dispersal: Water, dumping, birds and aquatic plant suppliers.

Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils.

Special Note: Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal.



LUDWIGIA, WATER PRIMROSE

Botanical Name: *Ludwigia peruviana*

Fast growing terrestrial or partially submerged shrub to 4m tall, usually confined to freshwater creek lines, banks and wetlands. It is vigorously opportunistic, clogging waterways and dominating over all other water and creek bank plants. Native to Central and South America.

Flowers/Fruit: Bright yellow, solitary flowers with 4-5 petals in early autumn. Herbaceous, erect capsules containing around 3200 sticky and pepper-like seeds. *Ludwigia peruviana* has finely haired leaves.

Dispersal: Seed explosion into water and spread by birds.

Declared Noxious: Hawkesbury River County, Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd Councils.

Special Note: *Ludwigia peruviana* has similar flowers and seed capsules to *Ludwigia longifolia*. Both are serious aquatic weeds in Sydney West.



SENEGAL TEA

Botanical Name: *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*

Flowers/ Fruit: Sprawling, bushy aquatic herb growing to 1.5m tall. Shiny dark green leaves appear waxy, up to 20cm long and 6cm wide. White flower heads up to 2cm wide and in a half sphere shape. Grows in damp soil, shallow and slow moving water. Native to S. America.

Dispersal: Water, animals and machinery.

Declared Noxious: All Sydney West and Blue Mountains Councils. If you find this weed, notify your local council immediately.

Special Note: Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal.

For your safety when treating weeds

Follow safe work practices

Wear protective clothing

Always read and follow the instructions on the herbicide label

For information about which herbicides to use, refer to the annual Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook. For a copy, phone NSW Department of Primary Industries on 4588 2100 or visit www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/weeds-general/nox-weeds-splash