# Environmental Weeds

# of the Redlands

**Redlands IndigiScapes Centre** 





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# Introduction

# What makes a weed?

A weed is any plant considered to be unwanted in an environment. They often prevail over native plants, impacting on environmental diversity, agriculture and our community.

# Where do our weeds come from?

Many environmental weeds have been introduced from overseas – more than 70% for agricultural purposes or as garden plants. With their predators and natural controls left behind, these plants often thrive and quickly outcompete our local species. Australian native species can also be problematic when moved outside of their natural range.

# Why are weeds a problem?

The Redlands' varied wildlife habitats, ranging from riparian rainforest to coastal wetlands, are home to a great diversity of plants and animals. This diversity is being threatened by environmental weeds.

#### **Environmental weeds:**

- outcompete native plant species
- damage and change native landscapes
- · degrade the value of habitat for native wildlife
- increase the risk of wildfire
- · can be toxic to people, livestock and pets
- · choke waterways and cause erosion, and
- reduce our enjoyment of local reserves, parklands, waterways and beaches.

# **Declared Pests**

Finding out more about the classifications of weed species can help you decide what action to take to control weeds.

#### **Declared Weeds and Your Responsibilities**

All declared pest weed species are prohibited within the city, on both public and private land. Declared pest weeds are also prohibited from use in all new restoration or landscaping works. It is best practice to control infestations of any declared species and conduct regular property inspections to identify new outbreaks early.

Declared

Class

Class

Class

Declared

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National Significance

Declared

Pest

Declared

Pest

#### Locally declared

LOCAL

Locally declared pest weeds are listed under Redland City Council Declared Local Pest laws. They are prohibited from sale or supply without authority. These weeds represent a significant risk to our local environment and community and must be controlled in all situations.

#### Class 1

A Class 1 weed is one that has the future potential to become a very serious pest in Queensland. All landholders are legally required to keep their land free of Class 1 weeds. It is a serious offence to introduce, keep or supply Class 1 weeds without a permit.

#### Class 2

STATE

A Class 2 weed is one that has already spread over substantial areas of Queensland and is considered a serious weed that requires coordinated eradication. All landholders are legally required to keep their land free of Class 2 weeds. It is a serious offence to introduce, keep or supply Class 2 weeds without a permit.

#### Class 3

A Class 3 weed is a serious weed that is commonly found in parts of Queensland, but its control by landowners is not enforced unless the plant is impacting, or has the potential to impact, on a neighbouring 'environmentally significant area' (e.g. a national park). It is a serious offence to introduce or supply a Class 3 weed.

#### Weed of National Significance (WONS)

**NATIONAL** 

Under the National Weeds Strategy a significant weed can also be declared a Weed of National Significance (WONS). WONS species have national management strategies in place to assist with their eradication and impacts on the Australian environment and economy.

# How can I help stop weeds?

ACTIVITY	BACKGROUND
Research new garden additions	Many environmental weeds are initially introduced as garden plants.
Use local native plants in your garden wherever possible	They make great habitat and are low maintenance additions to your property.
Learn to recognise local weed species and how they spread	In many cases mowing or slashing can aggravate your weed problem by spreading seeds and plant segments. Regular hand removal or an appropriate herbicide is often the quickest and most simple solution.
Don't dump lawn clippings, garden waste and soil into neighbouring easements, parks or bushland	Dumping introduces new weed infestations to our public land. Council waste transfer stations accept green waste, where it is recycled into mulch or used as fuel to produce green electricity.
Ensure that you are not part of the weed's reproduction cycle	Weed seeds often hitch a ride on your clothing, pets and vehicles. Do a quick check for weed seeds and dispose of any hitchhikers in the bin.
Join a Bushcare group	Bushcare groups help restore your local bushland.
Enquire about Council's Environmental Extension Programs	Assistance may be available to help with weed control on your property.
Share your knowledge with your friends, family and neighbours	A collaborative approach to weed control makes an enormous difference to our environment.

# Successful Weed Control Tips

- Contact Council staff at IndigiScapes, visit the Qld Herbarium with a specimen, or use the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries website (www.daff.qld.gov.au). These are all great ways of finding out how to control your particular weed.
- Herbicides should not be used around waterways or sprayed adjacent to sensitive natural environments. If in doubt, read the label on the bottle, it will give you all the information required to conduct your weed control safely and responsibly.
- Successful weed control usually involves an ongoing program of follow-up treatments and maintenance due to the long dormancy of many weed seeds. Where possible you should also consider coordinating your weed control with neighbours to prevent re-infestation.

# Weed Control Methods

Generally, manual techniques are recommended first as herbicide can be difficult to apply sensitively. However, for larger infestations, herbicide can save time and effort.

# Manual Techniques

#### Hand Weeding

Hand weeding is a low impact and gentle method of weed control particularly effective for small infestations or weeding in sensitive environments. With this method you must

ensure all reproductive root, stem and seed segments are bagged and disposed of.

#### Crowning

Using a sharp knife and protective gloves, the crown of some groundcover plant species can be removed, without further growth from the remaining roots. This is easily done by holding the leaves of the plant and using the knife at a 45 degree angle, cutting around the base of the

plant to include a few centimetres of roots. The crown of the plant must be bagged and disposed of.

#### Solarisation and Smothering

Some low-growing weeds can be controlled through solarisation or smothering. Solarisation involves covering the area with black plastic to block light and generate heat. The combined effects will kill most weeds over a four-week period.

Smothering involves covering the weeds with a thick layer of overlapping newspaper, cardboard, carpet or mulch. This effectively blocks the weeds ability to capture light and with time will kill most weeds, provided they are well covered.

#### **Mechanical Method**

Control of woody weeds can be achieved using brush cutters, chainsaws and heavy machinery. While this method is quick and effective, avoid broad scale clearing to minimise impacts on wildlife using the habitat. It is essential to follow up with repeat visits to effectively eradicate the weed.

#### **Pasture Improvement and Revegetation**

Both pasture improvement and revegetation are long-term techniques that assist in eliminating weeds. Weeds thrive in disturbed environments with a lack of competition. By restoring your pasture or local bushland, the additional competition from healthy pasture and vegetation makes it difficult for weeds to establish.





# **Herbicide** Application

#### **Cut/Scrape and Paint**

Plants transport water and nutrients in capillaries between the outer bark and the interior hardwood. Many small to medium woody weeds and vines can be effectively controlled by introducing herbicide into these capillaries through a cut or a scrape to the plant.

Follow the manufacturer's directions for use and safety when mixing the herbicide. Then, using a sharp knife or secateurs and protective gloves, either cut through the stem of the plant or make numerous deep scrapes to the bark. It is important to generously apply the herbicide solution quickly before the plant seals the wounds - within 10 to15 seconds - using a brush. Monitor your weed control and revisit if necessary.

#### Stem Injection and Frilling/Chipping

Larger woody weeds can be controlled using stem injection. This simply involves drilling numerous holes with a drill at a 45° angle to access the area just beneath the bark. Quickly fill these holes with herbicide, using the manufacturer's directions. This introduces the

herbicide to the plants vascular system and is an effective control method if completed correctly.

A crude version of this can also be completed using an axe. tomahawk or chisel to 'frill' the bark with numerous small downward cuts and then quickly applying the herbicide once again. It is important not to completely ringbark the tree, as this will prevent efficient uptake of the herbicide.

#### Foliar Spraying

Use this method to apply herbicide to the foliage of the weed using a pressure sprayer (or aerosol can). This is often a useful method for controlling large, dense infestations of weeds. Avoid spraving in windy or very still conditions, if rain

is anticipated within 24 hours, or in close proximity to waterways. Wetting agents may be required for weeds with hairy or waxy leaves to assist with herbicide uptake.

Check for these symbols in the species listing for how best to control individvual weeds.











# Groundcovers

Groundcovers are herbaceous or slightly woody plants. Although some groundcovers may spread by seed, weeds in this group usually spread by growing over or through the soil. Several groundcover species are also dispersed by wind or birds.

# **Native Alternatives**

The local native plants listed below are possible alternative or replacement plants for the groundcover environmental weeds in this booklet. The native plants suggested as alternatives are to be used as a guide only. More information on local native plant species can be found in the references at the end of this booklet.

Native Ginger Tall Sedge Barbed Wire Grass Blue Flax Lily Sawsedge River Matrush Long-leaved Matrush Boobialla Slender Shade Grass Kangaroo Grass Native/Ivy Leafed Violet Everlasting Daisy Alpinia caerulea Carex appressa Cymbopogon refractus Dianella caerulea, D. brevipedunculata Gahnia aspera Lomandra hystrix Lomandra longifolia Myoporum accuminatum Ottochloa gracillima Themeda triandra Viola hederacea Xerochrysum bracteata



# **Crofton Weed**



#### Ageratina adenophora

Erect, perennial herb to 1m with woody roots. Leaves opposite, trowelshaped, bright green, 5-8cm long, 2-5cm wide with toothed edges. White flowers in small dense clusters at ends of branches in spring. Seeds slender, angular, 2mm long, almost black, fine white hairs at tip. Colonises forest margins, stream banks and disturbed areas, preferring shaded wetter areas.



# Mistflower





### Ageratina riparia

Sprawling, perennial herb to 60cm. Numerous branching stems produce roots at ground level. Leaves opposite, to 8cm long and 2.5cm wide, toothed edges. Flowers white, small dense clusters at ends of branches in winter. Seeds slender, angular, 2mm long, black, fine white hairs at tip. Grows on damp hillsides and creek banks and rapidly invades disturbed areas.



## Blue Billygoat Weed Ageratum houstonianum



Herbaceous plant to 50cm, distinct clusters of small blue-purple flowers most of the year. Leaves serrated, leaves and stems covered in short hairs. Common weed in disturbed areas such as grazing land, roadsides, drainage lines, creeklines and outer edges of bushland.



# Whiskey Grass



#### Andropogon virginicus

Erect, perennial, tufted grass to 1m tall. Often brown, leaf blades hairy and curly near base. Flower spikes upright, paired, 2-3cm long. Flowers in summer. Seed spread by wind, wildlife and machinery. Common weed along roadside edges and in disturbed areas.

NOTE: Sometimes confused with the native Kangaroo Grass, which has flower spikes that droop in clusters.



## Asparagus Fern



#### Asparagus aethiopicus

Herbaceous perennial, persistent, many-branched stems up to 2m long. 'Leaves' (actually short stems) up to 2.5cm, single or in clusters, pale green, distinct mid-rib, abrupt point. Flowers small to 0.5cm, bell-shaped, white to pale pink. Fruits pale green berries, mature to bright red. Able to form dense mats. Small 'tubers' only store water, do not reshoot. Spread by birds and humans.



# Coral Creeper Baleria repens



Creeping or scrambling, shrubby plant, usually less than 70cm, bright red tubular flowers. Spreads by seed and vegetatively. Emerging weed in the area, forms dense infestations in bushland understory, will potentially infest waterways.



# **Cobblers** Pegs



#### **Bidens** pilosa

Upright herbaceous plant to 1m. Produces lots of seeds, each with two barbs that attach to clothing and fur on contact. Leaves serrated. Small yellow flowering heads. Invades parks, outer edges of bushland, gardens, revegetation sites, grazing land and degraded areas.



# Para Grass



# Urochloa mutica

Perennial grass up to 1.5m. Robust, hollow stems, prostrate growth habit sprouting new roots wherever nodes touch ground. End of stems erect. Leaves hairy, dark green, up to 15cm long and 1cm wide, tapering to long, fine point. Leaf sheaths hairy where they join stem. Flower heads to 18cm long, composed of several spikes about 5cm long. Thrives on creek banks and in wetlands.



# Mother-of-millions Bryophyllum delagoense



Succulent, perennial herb with fleshy stems and leaves. Flowers orange, yellow or red, on stalks held above the foliage. Plantlets may form on parent plant or regrowth may occur from tiny leaves or stems on ground. Numerous seeds. Spread by humans and water.



# Purple Succulent



Creeping succulent, spread by long runners. Leaves fleshy, purple to green, form a rosette or whorl shaped arrangement. Flowers white, fragrant, occur in a spike. Commonly spread as dumped garden waste in bushland areas.



# Canna Lilly



#### Canna indica

Erect, perennial plant to 2m tall. Large, alternate leaves, taper to narrow sheath at base. Flowers bright red, occur in a spike. Fruits hard, textured. Forms dense clumps in disturbed areas and along waterways. Spread by birds, readily regrows from dumped garden waste.



# Rhodes Grass Chloris gayana



Tufted, upright grass growing to 1.5m. Flower head a cluster of 6-18 spikes. Produces masses of seeds, spreads by runners and vegetatively. A pasture grass that has spread to disturbed areas, roadsides and the outer edges of bushland.



# **Columbian Waxweed** Cuphea carthagenensis



Upright or spreading herbaceous plant to 45cm. Found in moist and often disturbed sites. Green or reddish stems, covered densely in sticky hairs. Leaves small, 1-6cm long, oval shaped, pointed tips. Flowers grow from leaf forks or tips of branches. Green or reddish tube at base of flower, six pink or purple petals. Spreads from seed only.



# African Love Grass



Eragrostis curvula

Tufted grass up to 1.2m, narrow hairless leaves, 25-35cm long and 3mm wide, distinct parallel veins. Seed heads up to 30cm long. Seeds with herringbone feature. Can form dense monocultures. Spread by slashing and transportation of machinery and motor vehicles. Seeds still viable if eaten by livestock. Often found along roadsides, railway lines and spreading into pastures.



# Polka Dot Plant



Hypoestes phyllostachya

Small, shade-tolerant perennial herb to about 0.5m. Numerous cultivars display different foliage colours and patterns. Typically soft green leaves with white to pink spots or mottled patterns. Small, lavender blue flowers in summer.



# Balsam

#### Impatiens spp. Also known as: Busy Lizzy



Annual herb to 60cm. Stems erect, succulent, thick. Leaves ovate, serrated with pointed tip. Brightly coloured flowers in spring, colour between pink, purplish pink, red or rose. Can regrow from stem with node, also spread by seed. Grows in moist, shady areas, particularly invasive along creeks. Spread as dumped garden waste and by water.



### Creeping Lantana Lantana montevidensis



Perennial, sprawling, up to 25cm tall. Thin wiry stems. Leaves in opposite pairs, dark green, 2–3cm long, oval with finely- serrated margins, strong-smelling when crushed. Flowers small, purple with yellow or white centre in symmetrical clusters. Small purplish to black berries in autumn. Often spread by dumping of garden waste or by seed, can invade understorey of open forest and woodland, surviving on dry ridge tops and slopes with shallow, stony soils.



# Guinea Grass



#### Megathyrsus maximus Previously Panicum maximum

Tall, perennial grass, forms large clumps, up to 1.5m. Leaf blades long, narrow, pointed tips. Seed heads large, branched to 40cm in size. Seeds oblong shaped, purple. Introduced for fodder, common in disturbed areas.



# Molasses Grass



Melinis minutiflora

Spreading, densely smothering perennial mat grass. Stems branched, up to 90cm long. Foliage usually sticky, with strong odour resembling molasses. Slender flower heads, in winter, 10–20cm long, purplish in colour when young. Grows thickly from rooted runners. Spreads from disturbed areas adjacent to native forest e.g. roads and tracks. Highly flammable, recovers rapidly from fire, colonises burnt areas at expense of native vegetation.



# Red Natal Grass



#### Melinis repens

Opened tussock grass, upright flower stems, to 1m tall. Young seed heads red, turn pale as they mature. Leaf blades to 30cm long and to 1cm wide, may be folded or flat. Light, fluffy seeds, often wind dispersed or spread by contaminated clothes, vehicles or animals.



# Fishbone Fern



#### Nephrolepis cordifolia

Wiry, scaly stems branch and spread over ground with fleshy tubers. Can grow densely and expand rapidly to dominate ground surface. Fronds erect or arching to 75cm long. Spread by dumping garden waste and by spores carried by wind or water.

NOTE: Where fishbone fern appears to be growing naturally in undisturbed bushland and is not apparently a garden escapee it should not be removed.



# Broad-Leafed Paspalum





Tough, clump-forming perennial to 1m, leaves to 15mm wide. Seed head on terminal stalks, up to 10 thin, finger-like spikes carrying many seeds in summer. Spikes grow horizontally outwards from stalk. Seeds sticky, spread by disturbance such as mowing or slashing and via birds.



# **Elephant Grass and Bana Grass**



### Pennisetum purpureum and P. purpureum x typhoides

Tufted perennial grasses growing to 4m, resembling sugar cane in appearance. Pale green leaves up to 4cm in width, strong mid-rib tapering to a fine point. Flower heads up to 30cm in length, colour from yellow to purple. Forms bamboo-like, densely tufted clumps on creek banks and roadsides.



# Mother-in-law Tongue

Sansevieria trifasciata



Dense, clumping groundcover preferring moist, shady sites. Long, succulent, mottled greenish-yellow leaves to 1m. Often spread by garden dumping, can be difficult to eradicate once established.



### Fireweed



#### Senecio madagascariensis

Annual to biennial herb up to 50cm, branched stems. Mostly found on disturbed farmland. Flowers daisy-like, bright yellow. Seeds white, fluffy, dispersed by wind.

NOTE: Can be poisonous to livestock, particularly cattle and horses. Looks very similar to some native Senicio.



# South African Pigeon Grass / Setaria



#### Setaria sphacelata

Tufted perennial grass to 1.8m. Commonly found bordering waterways and in damp areas. Inflorescence spike-like up to 25cm long. Leaves blueish-green up to 2cm wide.



## Singapore Daisy Sphagneticola trilobata



Forms dense mats of runners on ground surface, smothers native plants. Leaves glossy, notched, somewhat fleshy, often lobed. Flowers bright yellow. Able to reproduce by small seeds, more likely to grow from section of stem or root. Spread by humans and water.



# Wandering Dew Tradescantia albiflora and T. zebrina



Succulent, perennial creepers. *Tradascantia albiflora* leaves glossy, somewhat fleshy, up to 2.5cm long, parallel veins, fine hairs along leaf margin. Flowers white, three petals. *T. zebrina* leaves larger, up to 6cm, silvery white stripes on leaf surface, purple underneath. Flowers pink to purple. Both commonly spread by garden waste.



#### Trad



#### Tradescantia fluminensis

Ground cover succulent. Dark green, shiny leaves, 5 -10mm long and 1-3cm wide, parallel veins, covered with small hairs. Small white flowers, three petals, yellow-tipped stamens. Spreads vegetatively, sends out roots at each nodal point. Can establish itself like a thick carpet in shady moist forest floor.



## Chinese Burr Triumfetta rhomboidea



Erect shrub with hairy stems to 1-2m. Leaves rhomboid-ovate shape, to 7cm long and 6cm wide, strong odour when crushed. Hairs on both sides of leaf, more numerous on lower surface. Small, yellow, umbel-like flowers, often in clusters of three. Capsules with microscopic hook at end, adhere to clothing and animal fur, enhancing its distribution.



# Vines

Vines are climbing, twining or winding plants. These plants use the support of other vegetation to climb upwards toward the light. Vine weeds may topple large trees by their sheer weight.

# **Native Alternatives**

The local native plants listed below are possible alternative or replacement plants for the environmental vine weeds in this booklet. The native plants suggested as alternatives are to be used as a guide only. More information on local native plant species can be found in the references.

Kangaroo Vine Wombat Berry Scrambling Lily Sarsaparilla Vine Snake Vine Native Jasmine Red Kennedy Pea Bower of Beauty Wonga Vine Birdwing Butterfly Vine Cissus antarctica Eustrephus latifolius Geitnoplesium cymosum Hardenbergia violacea Hibbertia scandens Jasminum didymum Kennedia rubicunda Pandorea jasminoides Pandorea pandorana Pararistolochia praevenosa



#### Madeira Vine



Pest

# Also known as: Lambs' Tails, Potato Vine

Vigorous climber up to 30m. Stems slender, climbing, becoming softly woody with age. Mature stems produce aerial tubers as main way of reproduction. Leaves fleshy, broadly egg shaped, tips rounded or shallowly-indented, base lobed. Flowers cream-coloured, numerous, in drooping clusters, up to 20cm long, shortlived. Rarely fruits. Mainly spread by humans and water, possibly also by animals.

NOTE: It is recommended you consult the websites listed in this booklet or get expert advice before attempting to control this weed as inappropriate control methods can make the infestation worse.



# **Dutchmans** Pipe



#### Aristolochia spp.

Fast growing, twining vine. Heart-shaped glossy leaves up to 75mm long. Distinctive 'Dutchmans pipe' shaped flower, reddish purple. Detrimental to native butterflies that mistake plant as host plant, leaves poisonous to larvae.

NOTE: Particularly concerning for Richmond Birdwing Butterfly which is a threatened species.



# Climbing Asparagus

Asparagus africanus



Perennial twining climber, scattered spines on stems. Branches more or less horizontal. Similar to Feathered Asparagus (*Asparagus plumosus*). 'Leaves' (actually short stems called cladodes) to 0.7cm long. Small green-white flowers on tips of branches followed by berries about 0.5cm across, blue-black and ripe in autumn/winter. Roots (rhizomes) fibrous and fleshy. Spread by birds and humans.



# Asparagus Fern



#### Asparagus scandens

Perennial climbing vine. Cladodes (leaf-like structures) broader than other species of Asparagus fern, dark green, 0.5-1.5mm wide and 5-15mm long, pointed at tip. Small white or pink single flowers, yellow anthers. Fleshy, egg-shaped berries, green changing to orange and red with maturity. Flowers and fruits in late winter and early spring. Spreads through underground tubers and rhizome.



## **Balloon Vine**



Perennial climber to 10m or more. Stems hairy, green with ribs often streaked red, becoming thick and woody with age. Leaves divided into nine leaflets arranged in groups of three. Leaflets soft, hairy, clearly-veined, with broadly-toothed edges. Flowers small, four petals, white in clusters. Fruit a papery green capsule maturing to light brown in autumn.



# Velcro Vine

#### Desmodium uncinatum Also known as: Silverleaf Desmodium

Perennial, scrambling leguminous vine, deep tap root and thick stems, rooting at nodes. Leaflets egg-shaped, covered in fine hairs, pale silver stripe along mid-rib. Flowers pink, mauve or blue up to 1cm long, usually appearing in early autumn. Brown seed pods with fine velcro-like hooked hairs, attach to clothing or animals.

Sub



# Moonflower



Ipomoea alba

Vigorous, climbing vine, twining stems. Leaves large, heart-shaped. Flowers white, trumpet-shaped, open at night. Fruit capsules small and round, pointed tip darkens, splits into four sections with maturity. Spread by seed or vegetatively via production of roots along stems that creep along ground.



# Mile-a-minute



#### Ipomoea cairica

Perennial trailing or climbing vine to 5m. Stems hairless, readily set roots when in touch with earth. Leaves hairless to 9cm long, five to seven lobes, middle lobe largest. Flowers purple, pink or whitish pink, to 8cm across, solitary or in groups of two to three. Fruit a four-valved capsule, about 1cm across, each valve with one seed. Seed with wispy hairs attached. Spread by wind, water and humans.



# **Morning Glory**



Ipomoea indica

Vigorous, perennial climber to 15m. Stems twining. Flowers blue, purple or violet up to 8cm across, grouped together, sepals up to 1.5cm long. Leaves broadly egg-shaped, smooth or three-lobed edges. Stems readily set new roots even from small segments. Mainly spread by human activities.



# Japanese Honeysuckle



#### Lonicera japonica

Robust twining vine, woody stems, up to 2.5m. Leaves in opposite pairs, 3.5cm wide and 7.5cm long. Cream, white or yellow tubular flowers with strong fragrance. Small, round, black-blue, shiny berries. Invasive to bushland, smothers native vegetation. Spread by birds, water, tractors and dumped green waste.



## Cats Claw Creeper Macfadyena unquis-cati



Tuberous perennial climber to over 30m. Stems red-brown, ageing to green then becoming woody, to 15cm thick. Leaves divided into three, tip leaflet forms a small, three–clawed tendril. Other leaflets to 8cm, red-brown ageing to dark green above and paler below. Flowers single or small clusters, yellow, trumpet-like, to 8cm, five petals. Thin capsule fruit to 45cm, green, ripening to brown in summer, winged seeds. Tuberous, deep, extensive roots dispersed by floods and humans. Seeds dispersed by wind and water.



# Siratro Macroptilium atropurpureum



Creeping or climbing legume. Bright green leaflets grouped in threes, two lower leaflets often with rounded lobe. 'Sweet pea- like' dark red purple flowers, on long spikes most of the year, followed by narrow pods 5–10cm long. Smothers native vegetation adjoining disturbed areas and disused pastures.



# Glycine

Neonotonia wightii



Vigorous, twining, perennial vine, woody base. Leaves consist of three leaflets, dark green, broadly egg-shaped. Prolific, bean-like seed pods, up to 3.5cm long, rectangular-shaped seeds. Inconspicuous, creamy flowers in late autumn. Smothers native trees and understorey vegetation.



# Corky Passionflower and White Passionflower



#### Passiflora suberosa and P. subpeltata

Slender vines with tendrils, raised glands in middle of leaf stalks, scattered along them or not present. Leaves three-lobed, leaf tips of White Passionflower more rounded. Corky Passionflower: green stems, corky with age, small white to greenish flowers, 1.5cm black berry. White Passionflower: larger flowers, about 5cm across, tinged green, inedible fruit about 4cm long. Spread by dumping, birds, animals, water and gravity.

NOTE: The native passionfruit has two raised glands on the leaf stalk very close to the base of the leaf.



# Kudzu



Pueraria lobata

Vigorous trailing or twining perennial herb, large tuber. One vine may cover a vast area. Stems hairy, up to 3m long. Large leaves divided into three leaflets, leaflets often lobed, upper surface green, greyish under. Flowers purple, blue or pink, up to 90 per stem in summer. Fruit a hairy pod to 9cm long. Mostly spread by humans.



# Climbing or Brazilian Nightshade



Perennial twining climber, stems mostly hairless. Leaves deeply lobed, hairless except edges and veins on underside. Flowers mauve-blue, 2–3cm across, in groups of up to 50 in spring and autumn. Fruit a bright red berry about 1cm across. Seeds spread by birds and water.



# Arrowhead Vine



Climbing or creeping vine. Leaves arrow-shaped, alternate. Mature leaves often with three lobes, white and green or just green. Juvenile leaves entire. Flower spikes in leaf axil, six to nine tubular flowers surrounded by a white spathe. Fruit red to reddish orange, numerous bown-black seeds in grey pulp. Plant spread by cultivation or dumping.

NOTE: Plants are poisonous.



# Black-eyed Susan





Herbaceous perennial twiner. Leaves three-pointed, triangular or shaped like an arrow head to 7cm long, leaf stalks to 4cm. Flowers singly on stalks, to 6cm long, orange or yellow, usually with black centre. Fruit a hairy capsule with few small seeds. Mainly spread by humans through garden escapees and dumping.

# Shrubs

Shrubs are woody plants that are generally multi-stemmed at or near the base. They are typically less than 5m tall.

Fruit and seeds from shrubs are readily dispersed by birds and wind.

## **Native Alternatives**

The local native plants listed below are possible alternative or replacement plants for the shrub/scrambler environmental weeds in this booklet. The native plants suggested as alternatives are to be used as a guide only. More information on local native plant species can be found in the references.

Sickle-leaf Wattle Eprapah Wattle Sweet Wattle Midvim Twiggy Myrtle Wallum Banksia Swamp Banksia Hairpin Banksia Coffee Bush Broad-leaved Palm Lily Palm Lily Hop Bush Hakea Hakea Pointed Leaf Hovea Wild May Prickly-leaved Paperbark Thyme Honeymyrtle **Blue Tongue** Sago Flower Native Mulberry Hairy Bush Pea Native Peach Slender Westringia Grass Trees

Acacia falcata Acacia fimbriata var perangusta Acacia suaveolens Austromyrtus dulcis Babingtonia similis Banksia aemula Banksia robur Banksia spinulosa Brevnia oblongifolia Cordyline petiolaris Cordvline rubra Dodonaea triquetra Hakea actites Hakea florulenta Hovea acutifolia Leptospermum polygalifolium Melaleuca nodosa Melaleuca thymifolia Melastoma malabathricum Ozothamnus diosmifolius Pipturus argenteus Pultenaea villosa Trema tomentosa (poisonous fruit) Westringia eremicola Xanthorrhoea species



### **Annual Ragweed** Ambrosia artemisiifolia



Fast growing erect shrub, 1-2m. Leaves 2-3cm long, hairy underside, shortly stalked, opposite at base and alternate at top. Flowers green, inconspicuous. Seeds small, black. Spreads via floodwater, in contaminated fodder or topsoil.

NOTE: Pollen from this plant contains highly potent allergens that can cause respiratory allergies such as hay fever or aggravated asthma. \*When using manual control techniques if anyone is prone to allergies, contact with flowering plants and pollen should be avoided.



# **Coral Berry** Ardisia crenata

Compact shrub to 1m, often multistemmed. Leaves dark green, thick and glossy, tightly waved edges. Flowers small, white or reddish, fragrant and in clusters. Fruit round, glossy red.





# Shoe-button Ardisia Aedisia elliptica

Shrub or small tree to 4m. Leaves dull, gland dotted below. New foliage pink to red. Flowers in clusters, pink to white. Fruit round, maturing from pink to dark purple. Fruit dispersed by birds and



mammals.







## Groundsel Bush Baccharis halimifolia



Perennial shrub to 4m. Densely branched. Leaves dull or pale green, alternate, wedge-shaped and lobed in upper part, 2.5–5cm long. Flowers male (yellow, globular) and female (white florets at end of branches) present on different plants, 6mm across and numerous. Fruit straw-coloured or brown, ribbed, 3mm long, topped by tufts of fluffy white hair, readily wind-dispersed. Flowers in autumn. Spread by animals, water, vehicles, machinery and wind.



### Green Cestrum



Erect, perennial shrub to 3m. Leaves alternate, to 12cm long and 2.5cm wide, unpleasant smelling when crushed. Flowers yellow, tubular, occur in clusters at end of stem. Fruit egg-shaped, black with maturity. Spread by birds.

NOTE: Can be toxic to animals including sheep, horses, pigs, poultry but especially cattle.



#### Duranta



Duranta erecta Also known as: Geisha Girl, Sheena's Gold

Shrub or small tree, drooping, occasionally spiny branches. Leaves in pairs or threes, oval, occasionally toothed, to 8cm long, short leaf stalk. Flowers blue or pale purple, often with two darker stripes, trumpet shaped, in clusters in summer/autumn. Fruit rounded, orange or yellow, about 1cm across, in large clusters. Colonises densely forested areas, especially near waterways. Spread by humans and birds.



# Brazilian Cherry



# Eugenia uniflora

Evergreen shrub or small tree to 8m. Stems brown, new growth reddish. Leaves usually in pairs, bases rounded, dark green, glossy, aromatic, to 5cm long. Flowers four petals, white, solitary about 1cm across, in early spring and summer/autumn. Fruit a deep crimson berry, about 2cm across. Spread by birds, animals, water and humans.



# White Shrimp Plant

#### Justicia betonica

Evergreen perennial shrub to 1-2m tall and wide. Leaves opposite, up to 14cm long, stems with purple tinge. Flowers held in spikes, pink to white. Small, club-shaped orange seed capsules, 2mm wide. Found in and around waterways, seeds spread by wind, water and animals.



### Lantana

#### Lantana camara



Scrambling evergreen, thicket-forming shrub to 4m. Stems woody, prickly and often four-sided. Leaves coarse, veins prominent, margins serrated, finely haired, strongly scented. Flowers in combinations of pink, yellow and cream. Fruit round to 0.8cm across, green maturing to shiny black in clusters. Roots shallow. Spread by birds, animals, water and humans.

NOTE: Hybrid varieties of lantana have been promoted as ornamentals including so-called 'sterile varieties'. All forms of lantana are considered environmental weeds and should not be planted.



# Coffee Bush



Leucaena leucocephala

Fast growing shrub to 6m. Leaves 25cm long and bipinnate, dull greyish-green leaflets. Flowers yellow, on short stalks. Fruit in flattened pods, up to 15cm long, in clusters. Pods with about 20 flat glossy brown seeds, expelled when ripe. Spread by cattle, wind, water, and machinery.



# Privet (small leaf)



Shrub up to 4m or more if supported. Leaves in pairs, variable in size and shape, to 7cm long, short hairs on veins and stalks of young leaves. Flowers small, white with four petals, heavily scented, in masses. Fruit oval berry to 0.6cm across, in dense clusters, green maturing to purple-black in winter. Spread by birds, animals and humans.



# Mock Orange



Murraya paniculata

6cm long. New growth pale green, mature leaves dark above, paler below. Flower white, about 2cm across, strongly scented. Fruit a berry, about 1cm across, green, ageing to yellow, orange or red. Seeds two per fruit, high germination rate. Spread by birds.



# Ochna

## Ochna serrulata. Also known as: Mickey Mouse Plant



Shrub to 3m. Bark on branches has numerous lenticels (small corky spots). Leaves to 6cm long, edges toothed and often wavy. Short leaf stalk. Flowers yellow, petals each 1cm long. After flowering sepals turn red as fruit develops. Fruit black, glossy, single-seeded. Seeds germinate readily in deep shade. Coppices (reshoots) readily when cut if not treated. Spread mainly by birds and humans.



# Indian Hawthorn



Rhaphiolepis indica

An evergreen, woody shrub to 2m tall. Leaves 5-10cm long, thick, leathery, margins toothed or serrated. Flowers white to pink, in clusters. Fruit round , blue to black. Seed spread by wind, water, and animals including birds.



# Easter Cassia Senna pendula



Shrubs that may scramble up to 3m. Compound leaves. Leaflet tips rounded, pods long and cylindrical. Flowers showy yellow. Fruit a green pod, drying with age. Seed to 0.5cm across, very long lived. Seeds spread by birds, insects, gravity and humans.



# Wild Tobacco Solanum mauriti<u>anum</u>



Woody shrub to 4m. Trunk greyish-green, around 15cm in width. Leaves yellowish-green above and paler below, lance-shaped up to 30cm long and 10cm wide, covered in hairs. Flowers lavendar to blue. Fruits small, round, approx. 10-15mm wide, greenish-yellow when ripe, light brown or yellowish seeds. Spread by wind, water and animals.



# Yellow Bells

Tecoma stans

Shrub or small tree to 7m. Leaves compound, up to 13 leaflets. Leaflets to 10cm long, pointed, toothed edges. Flowers showy, yellow, reddish lines in throat, spring/summer. Fruit a long narrow capsule to 22cm, splits when mature to release seeds. Seeds winged, about 1.5cm long, numerous. Mainly spread by wind, water and humans.

# Trees

Trees are woody plants, usually with a clear trunk, branching well above ground level. Tree seed is spread readily by birds and wind, and from gardens into the bush.

# **Native Alternatives**

The local native plants listed below are possible alternative or replacement plants for the environmental weed trees in this booklet. The native plants suggested as alternatives are to be used as a guide only. More information on local native plant species can be found in the references.

# Medium to large trees

#### Forest She-oak Allocasuarina torulosa Spotted Gum Corymbia citriodora sub. variegata Pink Bloodwood Corymbia intermedia Broad-leaved White Mahogany Eucalyptus carnea Broad-leaved Ironbark Eucalyptus fibrosa Tallowwood Grey Gum Eucalyptus propinqua Swamp Mahogany Eucalyptus robusta Grey Ironbark Eucalyptus siderophloia Forest Red Gum Eucalyptus tereticornis Brush Box Lophostemon confertus Swamp Box Lophostemon suaveolens

#### RAINFOREST, WET SCLEROPHYLL FOREST, MOIST GULLIES AND CREEK BANKS

Blackwood, Sally Wattle Lilly Pillys Bangalow or Piccabeen Palm Black Bean **River She-oak** Brown Kurrajong Native Tamarind Blue Quandong Hard Quandong Small-leaved Fig Crow's Ash **Cheese Tree** Large-leaved Cheese Tree Foambark Celerywood Wheel of Fire

#### COASTAL SITES

Beach Birdseye Coast Banksia Bribie Island Pine Swamp She-oak Tuckeroo Corkwood Cortkon Tree Snow-in-summer Broad-leaved Paperbark Screw Palm

### Small trees

Maiden's Wattle Black She-oak Grey Myrtle Blueberry Ash Plunkett Mallee Sandpaper Fig Tulipwood Native Bleeding Heart Native Frangipani White Bottlebrush Weeping Bottlebrush White Cedar Acacia melanoxylon Acmena and Syzygium species Archontophoenix cunninghamiana Castanospermum australe Casuarina cunninghamiana Commersonia bartramia Diploglottis australis Elaeocarpus grandis Elaeocarpus obovatus Ficus obligua Flindersia australis Glochidion ferdinandi Glochidion sumatranum Jagera pseudorhus Polyscias elegans Stenocarpus sinuatus

Alectryon coriaceus Banksia integrifolia Callitris columellaris Casuarina glauca Cupaniopsis anacardioides Endiandra sieberi Hibiscus tiliaceus Melaleuca linariifolia Melaleuca quinquenervia Pandanus tectorius

Acacia maidenii Allocasuarina littoralis Backhousia myrtifolia Elaeocarpus reticulatus Eucalyptus curtisii Ficus coronata Harpullia pendula Homalanthus nutans Hymenosporum flavum Melaleuca saligna Melaleuca viminalis Melia azedarach



# **Chinese Celtis**



Celtis sinensis

Large, semi-deciduous tree to 20m. Stems smooth, light grey with prominent lenticels (small corky spots). Leaves to 8cm long, dark green above, paler below. Upper leaf edge coarsely toothed, leaf bases uneven. Flowers tiny, greenish, spring/summer. Fruit about 0.5cm, green ageing to orange-red in summer/autumn. Spread mainly by birds and water.



# Camphor Laurel

Large spreading tree to 20m. Bark greyish, prominent vertical cracks on trunk. Young leaves and stems with reddish tinge. Mature leaves green above, dull green below, strong camphor scent when crushed. Small pale flowers. Fruit 1cm berry, green, ageing to black. Seed spread by birds, other animals and humans.

- R. R.



# Cadaghi Corymbia torellian



Evergreen tree to 30m. 'Stocking' of grey scaly bark at base of trunk, smooth pale green bark above. Leaves pale green, sometimes with a pink tinge, shape variable, wavy edges to 16cm long. Flowers in masses of scented, cream-coloured balls. Fruit almost round, woody capsule, many tiny seeds. Mainly spread by humans and wind.



## **Coral Tree** Erythrina indica, E. crista galli and Erythrina x sykesii



Thorny deciduous tree, bright red flowers. Spreads by suckering or from broken off pieces (the wood is soft) of trunk or branches. Leaves bright green consisting of three large leaflets, central one on a longer stalk. Thrives on disturbance and spread by dumping and suckering.



# Golden Rain Tree

Koelreuteria elegans subsp. formosana



Hardy, fast growing deciduous tree to 25m tall. Leaves compound, bipinnate, leaflets with toothed edges, pointed tips. Flowers yellow, occurring in clusters at end of branches. Fruit papery with three chambers, pink to rose. Seed dispersed by wind.



## Slash Pine Pinus elliottii



Evergreen, resinous and aromatic tree to 50m. Leaves 20–30cm long, needle-like in bundles, female cones lopsided.



# **Castor Oil Plant**



Ricinus communis

Tall branching shrub or small tree to 6m. Hollow branches, pale green or red when young, grey when older. Very large leaves, seven to nine pointed triangle segments, toothed edges. Round fruit covered in soft spines, explodes when ripe. Abundant along waterways, disturbed sites and roadsides.

NOTE: Seeds and leaves poisonous to humans and livestock, contain ricin.



## Umbrella Tree Schefflera actinophylla



Tree to 10m, often multi-stemmed. Leaves compound, stalks up to 40cm long. Leaflets arranged umbrella-like (palmately), up to 30cm long. Small red flowers in sprays above foliage. Fruit dark red to 0.5cm long, a single seed. Seeds readily spread by birds and humans.



# Broad-leaf Pepper Tree





Tree to 10m, short trunk, many branches. Stems pink-brown, hairy, with lenticels (small corky spots). Leaves compound, small 'wing' along leaf stalk. Leaflets to 8cm long, mid to yellow-green, sometimes red-tinged, pepper aroma when crushed. Flowers small, five petals, cream to white in clusters at ends of branches. Fruit many, round, green berries, ripening to orange/red, about 0.5cm across. Spread by birds, water and humans.



# Giant Devils Fig Solanum chrysotrichum



Shrub or small tree to 6m. Young stems green, covered with hairs and sparse prickles. Older stems grey and covered in large thorns. Large broad leaves, several deep rounded or pointed lobes. Adult leaves prickles on underside, none on top side. Clusters of white star-shaped flowers. Fruit round, green, matures to yellow-orange. Spread by birds. Found mostly along waterways and in disturbed sites.



# African Tulip Tree



Evergreen tree to 25m. Bark rough and greenish-grey. Leaves glossy green, seven to 19 oval leaflets. Flowers scarlet, fringed with yellow, bell shape. Fruit a long, woody capsule. Spreads by suckering and seed.



# Cocos Palm

## Syagrus romanzoffiana Also known as: Queen Palm



Fast-growing tree to 21m. Sturdy ridged trunk. Leaves green to 4.5m long with long, strappy leaflets radiating from the central leaf stem. Flowers small and inconspicuous. Fruit a fleshy orange berry up to 2.5cm long. Spread by humans, flying foxes, birds and other animals.



# Aquatic

Aquatic plants spend at least part of their life with their roots submerged or in very wet soil. Some are free-floating on the water's surface forming dense mats. Many aquatic weeds spread vegetatively when parts of the plant are broken off and carried downstream or spread by birds and humans.

# **Native Alternatives**

The local native plants listed below are possible alternative or replacement plants for planting in and around waterways. The native plants suggested as alternatives are to be used as a guide only. More information on local native plant species can be found in the references.

Jointed Twig Rush Tall Sedge Hat Pins Common Rush Lepironia Water Snowflake Woolly Frogmouth Baumea articulata Carex appressa Eriocaulor australe Juncus usitatus Lepironia articulata Nymphoides indica Phylidrum lanuginosum



# Hairy Water Hyssop

Bacopa lanigera



Creeping aquatic plant, forms very dense mats in mud or under shallow water. Stems densely covered in spreading hairs. Small, rounded, glossy green leaves, in pairs along stems. Single, small, bluish-purple flowers in leaf forks. Stems produce roots when in contact with soil. Reproduces by seed or pieces of stem. Sometimes grown as aquarium plant and becoming established in wetter sites along coastal eastern Australia.



# Cabomba

#### Cabomba caroliniana



- <u>-</u>



## **Dense Waterweed**



#### Egeria densa

Fully submerged aquatic plant, stems to 1.5m long. Firmly attached to sediment. Leaves up to 4cm long, tiny serrations on margins, whorls of four or five (sometimes up to eight). Flowers 2cm, three white petals. Easily dispersed from broken stem pieces. Thrives in slow-flowing, shallow water with high nutrients. Forms extremely dense, submerged masses that impede water flow.



# Water Hyacinth



#### Eichhornia crassipes

Floating perennial, aquatic herb. Leaves shiny, glossy green, rounded, waxy. Spongy leaf stalks 5–20cm long, dense clusters. Flowers blue to mauve, showy, 3–4cm long on spikes 50cm long, 3–15 flowers per spike. Fruits three-celled capsules. Roots black, fibrous. Found in stagnant or slow-moving water bodies, preferring nutrient-enriched water. Escaped from ornamental ponds.



# Senegal Tea

Gymnocoronis spilathoides



Perennial herb, creeping underground stems or rhizomes. Stems ribbed, hollow between joints. Leaves opposite, variable in shape. Flower heads ball-like, white, at end of leafy branches. Grows in still or slow flowing creek lines, reproduces from seed and stem fragments. If you identify this plant Council requests you report it to them immediately.



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# Kidneyleaf Mud-plantain



#### Heteranthera reniformis

Aquatic plant, forms very dense mats in shallow water or mud. Stems submerged or floating, emerge 10-30cm above the water surface. Stems root when in contact with soil. Small rounded or kidney shaped leaves. Very small white to pale blue flowers (open for only three hours after sunrise). Popular ornamental pond plant, with escaped plants established in natural wet areas. Reproduces by seed and plant fragments.



# Amazon Frogbit

#### Limnobium laevigatum



Floating aquatic plant, rosettes of floating leaves lying flat on water surface. Runners form juvenile plants, building dense mats. Small white flowers. Juvenile leaves spongy on underside. Sold as aquarium and pond plant. Reproduces by seed and plant fragments.



# Water Lettuce



#### Pistia stratiotes

Floating perennial, aquatic herb, appears like small floating, open headed lettuce. Leaves greenish-yellow, fan-shaped and thick at base, 2.5–15cm long, 8cm across, covered by short white hairs. Flowers small, inconspicuous, green, 7–12mm long, in centre of mature plants. Fruit resembles a berry, 5–8cm wide. Prefers nutrient-enriched, slow moving streams or stationary water bodies. Escaped aquarium plant.



# Sagittaria



# Sagittaria platyphylla

Aquatic plant, rooted in sediment, forming clumps of upright leaves, emerging 80cm above water surface. Sometimes forms floating mats. Leaves above water large, elongated, on long three-sided stalks. Underwater leaves strap-like, form a rosette. Flowers white or sometimes pink, three petals. Reproduces by seed, underground tubers and stem segments.



# Salvinia

#### Salvinia molesta



Perennial free-floating aquatic plant, often forming dense mats. Leaves bright green, oval, about 2cm wide. Young leaves flat on water surface, older leaves bend at mid-rib, become pairs along stem. Leaf surface covered with long, stiff, water-repellent hairs. Bears no flowers as it is a fern. Found in slow-moving streams and ponds. Prefers high nutrient levels and high water temperature. Escaped aquarium plant.

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# For more information

#### WEBSITES:

Australian Government www.weeds.gov.au (with weed identification tool) Greening Australia Queensland Inc. www.greeningaustralia.org.au Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/ Redland City Council www.redland.qld.gov.au Weeds Australia www.weeds.org.au APPS: Weed Identification App: Weeds of South East QLD

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