

# environmental weeds

Weedy plants threatening the health of the local environment

## AFRICAN DAISY



African daisy (*Osteospermum ecklonis*) is a very popular garden plant that has emerged as one of the most serious environmental weeds along the Far South Coast.

African daisy is a tough, drought-tolerant plant and does best in poor, dry, well-drained soil in full sun. It will actually not perform well if the soil is rich and well watered!

It is a robust herb or shrub reaching up to a metre in height. It has coarsely toothed leaves and flowers that are white or pink above and blue to violet below.

Most have a dark blue centre to their flowers. The simple daisy-like flowers open when the sun is shining with the main flowering period from late winter to late spring.

Seeds are long-lived and are wind and water dispersed. They are commonly spread by dumping.

African daisy invades a wide range of habitats, particularly beaches, dunes and dry forest. It is very widespread around all coastal communities and is rapidly invading adjacent bushland where it can form a dense understorey excluding native species.



## ✓ Grow these instead\*

Choose a native plant that has similar spectacular flowers but is less invasive.

Fan flowers (*Scaevola* species and cultivars), prostrate guinea flower (*Hibbertia diffusa* and other *Hibbertia* species) and paper daisy cultivars (*Xerochrysum bracteatum* – formerly *Helichrysum* or *Bracteantha bracteata*).



Fan flower



Guinea flower



Paper daisy

Some native plants that grow well on the south coast include:

\***Grow Me Instead** – a guide for gardeners on the New South Wales South Coast. Available from Bega Valley Shire Council (02) 6499 2222

# weedy plants: a threat to agriculture and the environment

for more information please contact:

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority	(02) 4233 1129
Shoalhaven City Council	(02) 4429 3111
Eurobodalla Shire Council	(02) 4474 1000
Bega Valley Shire Council	(02) 6499 2222



Weedy garden plants cause many problems **IN** your garden and also **OUTSIDE** your garden. When they invade surrounding bushland they may

- ✗ smother plants
- ✗ destroy habitat
- ✗ create fire hazards and
- ✗ block access ways

They often have high seed production and long seed dormancy.

## ✓ be a responsible gardener Help reduce the spread of weedy garden plants

Choose garden plants that will not threaten the health of the natural environment, but rather enhance the environment by being

- ✓ non-invasive
- ✓ local native plants
- ✓ wildlife habitat and food
- ✓ effective soil stabilisers
- ✓ attractive to birds

Never dump garden refuse into the bush or over the garden fence, not even lawn clippings.

Instead **compost garden waste**, mulch garden off-cuts, make use of green waste bins or deliver garden refuse to the local tip.

**Control, remove and replace** plants that are escaping your garden.

**Avoid choosing those plants that are likely to invade** adjacent bushland before the problem becomes a major weed invasion.

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Eastern spinebill feasting on nectar from a local native grevillea flower