

ILLAWARRA DISTRICT NOXIOUS WEEDS AUTHORITY



AFRICAN BOXTHORN
(*Lycium ferocissimum*)

A tall, erect, thorny perennial shrub, often growing closely together forming impenetrable thickets. Branches are stout, sometimes drooping and end in a strong sharp spine. Flowers cream streaked with lilac. Berries are small, bright orange, succulent and globular. The bushes also harbour vermin such as rabbits and the berries a host for fruit fly and other insects. A native of South Africa, introduced as a hedge plant.



AFRICAN LOVEGRASS
(*Eragrostis curvula*)

A tussocky perennial grass up to 1 metre high, with erect stems, which may bud at the lower nodes. Leaf colour varies from bright green to blue/green, leaves vary in width and in some forms curl at tip. Flower head a panicle up to 30cm long, sometimes with a weeping habit. Low nutritive value and unpalatable. A native of South Africa.



ALLIGATOR WEED
(*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)

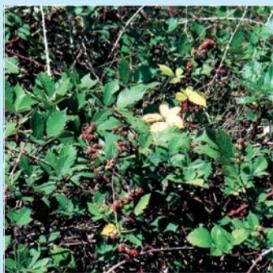
Alligator Weed is regarded as one of the world's worst weeds. It grows as a floating aquatic or as a rooted terrestrial plant. It is a rhizomatous herb. The plant spreads from rhizomes and from stem fragments. Stems are hollow. Leaves are opposite, 2 to 7 cm long and 5 to 40 mm wide, gently tapering to the tip and base. Flowers are silvery white and paper-like. Rarely if ever seeds. Very invasive. Can completely choke waterways, deoxygenating water and excluding light. Death of aquatic life can

result. Can seriously restrict navigation. Occasionally planted in the belief that it is the herb Mukunawanna, otherwise known as Ponankaarni. A native of South America.



BITOU BUSH
(*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotundata*)

A perennial sprawling shrub 1-2m high. Bitou Bush grows mainly along the sandy coastal strip of NSW and southern QLD where it competes aggressively with native vegetation. There are two subspecies of this plant in Australia. Both are characterised by bright yellow daisy like flowers and black succulent fruit. Leaves are light green with a shiny surface, although some have a grey downy underside. Leaves vary from rounded, smooth edged to prominently toothed. A native of South Africa.



BLACKBERRY
(*Rubus fruticosus (agg) ssp.*)

A perennial plant with up to 6 metre long thorny canes capable of forming new plants where the cane tips contact the ground. The base of the plant forms new canes each year and 2-year-old canes bear white or pink flowers at their ends which develop into black succulent fruit. Blackberry is widely spread by birds and causes problems in forests, creeks, riverbanks and roadsides. Stock carrying capacity is severely reduced because of the rambling nature of the plant. Commonly a harbour for vermin (rabbits and foxes). A European native.



GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS
(*Sporobolus fertilis syn Sporobolus indicus var major*)

A coarse tussocky grass up to 1.5m. The seedhead, which resembles a rat's tail, can grow up to 40cm long. Branches at the bottom of the seedhead droop away from the central stem when fully laden with seed. The seeds are white in colour initially, turning yellow-brown at maturity. The plant can grow to 40cm in diameter, forming thick swards, which hay off in winter leaving a distinctive straw of seedless heads. A very aggressive plant that spreads rapidly and has low nutritive value. Native to Southern Africa.



GORSE
(*Ulex europaeus*)

An erect much branched perennial shrub, to 2.5m high. Stems are characterised by brown older growth becoming woody when mature. Young growth is green. All stems are armed with numerous spines to 5cm long and short branchlets terminating in spines. Leaves are generally dark green, narrow spine-like and uniformly spaced along the branches and branchlets. Flowers are bright yellow, pea-like and fragrant. Fruit is a dark-coloured, hairy pod. Originally introduced from Europe as a hedge plant.



GROUNDSEL BUSH
(*Baccharis halimifolia*)

A densely branched shrub, up to 3m high. Leaves are alternate, wedge-shaped and prominently toothed. Stems have a characteristically striped bark. Flowers are cream and white with hundreds of windborne autumn seeds produced. A garden escapee native to North America.



PRICKLY PEAR
(*Opuntia spp*)

Twelve species of Opuntia and 2 species of Harrisia cactus are naturalised in NSW. All are declared noxious except for Indian Fig (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) which is grown as a commercial crop. Natives of Southern and Central America, Tiger pear, Harrisia cactus and Common Pest Pear pose the greatest problems. Most are erect succulent shrubs up to 1-2m high, capable of reproducing by seed and/or from branch segments. Segments or stems, commonly referred to as the leaves are

armed with numerous bristles and/or spines. Flowers may be white, yellow or red with fruit typically red and pear shaped.



PAMPAS GRASS
(*Cortaderia selloana*)

A long-lived perennial tussock (2 metres high) with flowerheads 4 metres high. Plants are either female or hermaphrodite (bisexual). Female plants can produce 100,000 seeds per flowerhead per season if pollinated. Seeds spread by wind. Plant can also be grown from pieces of rhizomes (root segments). Pampas grass is in widespread use as a garden ornamental in residential areas. Produces large quantities of flammable material and dense infestations increase bush fire hazard. A native of South America.



RHUS TREE
(*Toxicodendron succedaneum*)

A deciduous tree to 8 metres tall. Leaves are pinnate divided into 9 to 15 leaflets arranged in pairs and a single leaflet at the tip. Turning brilliant scarlet or crimson in autumn. Flowers are small creamy-white within new spring leaves. Fruit is pale brown, flattened, papery in appearance and hang in bunches during autumn and winter. Rhus can cause severe dermatitis and painful allergic reactions between 12 hours and 7 days after contact with the plant. A common garden plant originally a native of China and Japan.

OBLIGATIONS & PENALTIES

Every homeowner, landowner, occupier or person(s) leasing or renting properties must be aware of their obligations and responsibilities to control noxious weeds. The person(s) who has the care, control and use of the land is the occupier. They are responsible for the control of noxious weeds. If a private occupier of land fails to comply with the obligations under a weed control order, those obligations may be enforced against the owner of the land as well as the occupier by a weed control notice issued under section 18. Each owner or occupier who fails without reasonable excuse to take reasonable and practical measures to control noxious weeds on their property shall be liable to a penalty fine not exceeding \$11,000 (eleven thousand dollars).



ST JOHN'S WORT
(*Hypericum perforatum*)

An erect perennial herb or small shrub with a creeping rootstock. Leaves when viewed against light show characteristic oil glands. Flowers in spring, early summer bearing bright yellow flowers. The dead brown flower stalks are clearly visible at other times during the year. Toxins in the leaves can cause photosensitivity, hypersensitivity (heat and cold stress) and infertility in grazing animals. The plant readily invades unimproved overgrazed pastures. A native of Europe and Western Asia.



SALVINIA
(*Salvinia molesta*)

An aquatic plant declared noxious throughout New South Wales. A free-floating fern with slender stems, floating leaves and root like structure. Spreads vegetatively by fragmentation and grows rapidly in warm conditions when it can double its size in 2-3 days. Occurs on still and slow flowing water, where it can smother large areas causing problems to other plants and aquatic animals, blocking irrigation equipment and pumping apparatus and reducing the use of waterways for recreation and livestock. A native to South America.



SERRATED TUSSOCK
(*Nassella trichotoma*)

Serrated tussock is a perennial, drought resistant, tussock forming grass with a deep root system. Leaves are tightly rolled and rough to touch. Flower stalks usually appear in spring and are carried on slender, branched stalks slightly longer than the leaves. The flower head is slender and drooping, purple in colour, and produces one seed, about 2 mm long, pale straw coloured. A tussock in full flower presents a distinctly purple appearance due to the large number of purple florets. In winter

tussocks have a typical bleached golden colour. A very aggressive plant that spreads rapidly and has low nutritive value. A native of South America.



WATER HYACINTH
(*Eichhornia crassipes*)

A free-floating aquatic plant growing in deep or shallow water and in mud. Spreads vegetatively by fragmentation. One plant in one season can spread to occupy about 300 hectares. Easily recognised by its bright shiny pale green fleshy leaves on swollen bladder like stems. Attractive mauve flowers appear in summer and its seeds may lie dormant for many years before germinating. The plant threatens water use generally. Infestations may make water unfit for domestic and stock use, choke irrigation systems, block drainage lines, hinder navigation and seriously interfere with wildlife. A native of South America.



BONESEED
(*Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera*)

A perennial shrub, which grows up to 3 m high, boneseed reproduces by seed. It has woody branched stems and ovalshaped leaves with irregularly serrated edges. New growth is typically covered by white downy cotton-like material. This shrub has yellow flowers, with a round fleshy green fruit that turns black when mature and contains a single smooth round seed 6-7 mm in diameter. The seed is bone coloured when dry, hence the name 'boneseed'.

Boneseed is a South African plant that was first introduced to Australia for ornamental purposes in the 1850s.



CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS
(*Nassella neesiana*)

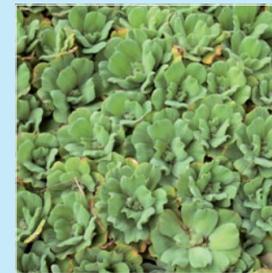
Chilean needle grass, named for its sharp, pointed seeds, is a perennial tussock forming grass which grows in dense clumps. It can grow to 1 m in height and has an unusual feature in that it produces hidden seeds which are formed in the nodes and bases of the flowering stems. These seeds are self-fertilised and enable the plant to reproduce despite grazing, slashing and fire. The flowering seed heads are a distinctive purplish colour and the seeds are very sharp at the point. Its leaves

are 1-5 mm wide, flat and strongly ribbed on their upper surface, with leaf edges that are rough to touch.



MYSORE THORN
(*Caesalpinia decapetala*)

Mysore Thorn is a perennial shrub to 2-4m or sprawling climber to 15m high that readily forms a dense impenetrable thicket. It has both tap and lateral roots. Leaves can be up to 300mm long with leaflets dark green above and pale beneath. These are approximately 8mm wide and covered with fine hairs. Mysore Thorn has distinctive pale yellow flowers which have prickles at their base. They flower from winter – spring and thereafter produce brown woody pods. Seeds may lay viable in the soil for up to 10 years. A garden escapee native to India.



WATER LETTUCE
(*Pistia stratiotes*)

Water lettuce is a free-floating perennial herb with ribbed, velvety and spongy leaves. It has dense feathery roots and can be found in both still and flowing water. Its flowers are small and partly concealed at the base of the plant. It spreads by both vegetative reproduction and seeds. This aquatic weed rapidly forms dense floating mats on rivers, dams and irrigation canals and also serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes, which are the principal vectors of many diseases.



HORSETAIL
(*Equisetum species*)

Horsetails are primitive, non-woody, non-flowering, perennial plants that grow to heights in the range 50cm-1.2m, depending on the species. The fruiting cones, 10-40 mm long, are found at the ends of the stems and contain masses of pale-greenish to yellow spores. It produces two different kinds of shoots: sterile, green, branched, hollow shoots and fertile, pale-brown, unbranched shoots that bear fruiting cones and die back to the ground each year. A native of Europe, Asia and North America, Horsetail is a garden escapee that spreads by rhizomes and root pieces.



LANTANA
(*Lantana camara hybrids*)

All lantana species (including ornamental species) are now declared noxious weeds. All Lantana species are now prohibited from being sold in NSW. Ornamental lantana displays a wide range of flower colours from pale cream to lilacs and purples. *L. montevidensis* or creeping lantana is a scrambling variety with purple or lilac flowers. Largely used within gardens and in landscaping, Lantana hybrids have become a large problem due to their ability to escape their surrounds and

produce viable seed or hybridise with the common wild form of lantana (pink lantana). Ornamental lantana is a robust compact shrub with rough square stems and leaves and posy like, brightly coloured flowers in shades of pink, yellow, red or mauve.



SENEGAL TEA PLANT
(*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

A sprawling perennial aquatic herb that grows to 1.5m tall, this noxious weed floats along and in water courses, and forms mat like features obstructing water flows. This herb is dormant in winter and may even die in exposed areas, reshooting from protected crowns in spring. It has hairless stems up to 2cm wide, ovate to lanceolate, hairless; dark green leaves 20cm long and 6cm wide. It displays obvious white ball-shaped flowers 1.5cm in diameter, which flower in late spring/early

summer. A native of Europe, Senegal Tea plant spreads by both vegetative reproduction and seeds.