

OBLIGATIONS AND PENALTIES

Noxious Weeds and You

Weeds have the capacity to substantially reduce agricultural production, and they represent a major form of environmental degradation. For these reasons, the control of noxious weeds assumes a very high priority for the IDNWA.

All land OWNERS and OCCUPIERS have physical, moral and legal obligations to control noxious weeds on their land.

Physical Requirement:

Weeds compete for light, nutrients and moisture and therefore they contribute to reductions in plant and animal performance. Heavy infestations of noxious weeds can lead to a dramatic decline in levels of agricultural productivity.

Noxious weeds also have the propensity to invade native grasslands and bushland and, as such, pose a major threat to the environment of this district.

Moral Requirement:

All occupiers have a moral obligation as owners and caretakers of land to not only prevent the establishment of noxious weeds, but moreover to stop the spread of weeds from their land onto adjoining lands. This responsibility is obligatory to land ownership.

Legal Requirement:

Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, land owners and occupiers have a legal requirement to control noxious weeds.

All owners and occupiers of private or public land must be aware of their obligations and responsibilities to control noxious weeds on the land they occupy.

Reasonable and practical control must be undertaken in an effective manner appropriate for each weed and its declaration class.

Penalties for occupiers who fail to control noxious weeds have been increased substantially to a maximum of \$11,000. When the Authority finds it necessary to enter and control weeds on private land the costs incurred will become a charge on the land similar to an unpaid rate. The Authority may also charge the owner and/or occupier for the cost of re-inspection for the purpose of ascertaining if a notice has been complied with.

METHODS OF WEED CONTROL

A variety of methods can be used to control noxious weeds. The method you choose will be determined by the size of the problem, the resources you have available and the time constraints you are working to.

To effectively control any weed a combination of methods is generally desirable. This approach is called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

1. Manual / Mechanical Removal

When the size and location of the infestation permits, labour intensive methods such as hand pulling and mattocking can be undertaken. These methods are best achieved when plants are young and infestations small. When bushes or infestations become larger however they may be best controlled through the strategic use of appropriate machinery such as a tractor or dozer. Slashing or burning may also be used to open up dense stands of weeds provided follow-up control by other techniques is undertaken.

If spraying is to be undertaken following mechanical control it will be essential to wait until regrowth is at least 0.5 m in height and in full leaf. Spraying earlier than this may be less effective as regrowth may not support enough leaf to absorb sufficient chemical to kill the plant.

2. Herbicides

Herbicides applied at the right time, right rate and using the right technique are often the most economical, effective and most practical method for long term control.

Weeds should only be treated with chemicals registered for their control and when they are actively growing and not suffering undue stress, such as drought. Chemicals are most commonly applied by foliar spray application, cut stump or stem injection methods.

3. Biological

The majority of noxious weeds have been introduced from other countries including the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. Their natural enemies, which kept them under control in their native country, are not present in Australia and as a consequence their spread has been unrestricted.

Much work has been done on the introduction of biological control agents for Blackberry, Bitou Bush and St Johns Wort, to name a few. Biological control does not eradicate a weed species, but aims to suppress their growth, flowering and seed-set, thereby slowing the rate of spread of the weed.

Biological control is most practical in inaccessible areas, low priority areas for control and where other control options are too expensive or ineffective.

4. Replacement

After mechanical treatment or herbicide application it is often valuable to seed pasture or regenerate with native plants. This helps prevent further weed establishment from seed or root stock by providing competition.

Planning Your Actions

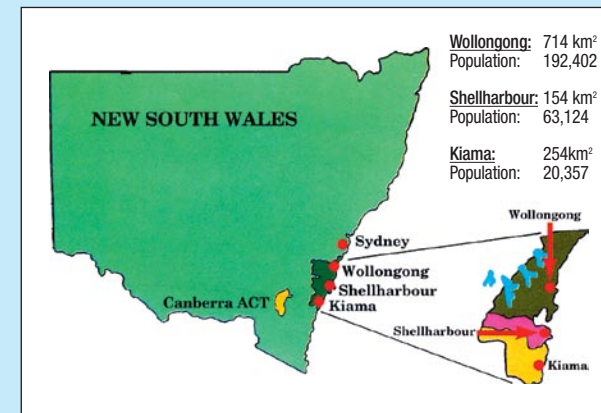
Once a weed is effectively controlled by any of the above-prescribed methods be prepared to implement follow up control and maintenance on an annual basis over several years. Regrowth from root stock or seeds will often occur and if not controlled at least annually the initial expense and time will have been wasted and the weed will re-establish.

ILLAWARRA DISTRICT NOXIOUS WEEDS AUTHORITY

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) is the Local Government body empowered to control noxious weeds in the following three Council areas:

1. Wollongong City
2. Shellharbour City
3. Kiama

The Authority is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on all council owned lands including certain roadsides and vacant Crown land through special grants. It is also responsible for the inspection of private property for noxious weed infestations and the giving of directions and advice to landholders or occupiers so that adequate control is maintained.



ILLAWARRA DISTRICT NOXIOUS WEEDS AUTHORITY



Upstairs Kiama Post Office

All mail to: The Secretary
PO Box 148, Kiama NSW 2533

Telephone: (02) 4233 1129

Facsimile: (02) 4232 3665

PLANTS DECLARED NOXIOUS KIAMA, SHELLHARBOUR & WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL AREAS

Class 1 – State Prohibited Weeds

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME |
|-------------------------|---|
| Anchored water hyacinth | <i>Eichornia azurea</i> |
| Broomrapes | <i>Orobanchae species except O.cernua var. australiana and O. minor</i> |
| Chinese violet | <i>Asystasia gangetica subsp. micrantha</i> |
| East Indian hygrophila | <i>Hygrophila polysperma</i> |
| Eurasian water milfoil | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> |
| Hawkweeds | <i>Hieracium species</i> |
| Horsetail | <i>Equisetum species</i> |
| Hymenachne | <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> |
| Karoo thorn | <i>Acacia karroo</i> |
| Kochia | <i>Bassia scoparia</i> |
| Knapweeds – Black | <i>Centaurea nigra</i> |
| Knapweeds – Spotted | <i>Centaurea maculosa</i> |
| Lagarosiphon | <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> |
| Miconia | <i>Miconia species</i> |
| Mimosa | <i>Mimosa pigra</i> |
| Mexican feather grass | <i>Nassella tenuissima</i> |
| Parthenium weed | <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> |
| Pond apple | <i>Annona glabra</i> |
| Prickly acacia | <i>Acacia nilotica</i> |
| Rubbervine | <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> |
| Senegal tea plant | <i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i> |
| Siam weed | <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> |
| Water caltrop | <i>Trapa species</i> |
| Water lettuce | <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> |
| Water soldier | <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> |
| Witchweed | <i>Striga species except native species and Striga parviflora</i> |
| Yellow burrhead | <i>Limncharis flava</i> |

Class 2 – Regionally Prohibited Weeds

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Alligator weed | <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> |
| Salvinia | <i>Salvinia molesta</i> |

Class 3 – Regionally Controlled Weeds

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Giant Parramatta grass | <i>Sporobolus fertilis</i> |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> |
| Groundsel bush | <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> |
| Mysore thorn | <i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i> |
| St. John's wort | <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> |
| Water hyacinth | <i>Eichornia crassipes</i> |

Class 4 – Locally Controlled Weeds

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME |
|----------------------|--|
| African boxthorn | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> |
| African lovegrass | <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> |
| Blackberry | <i>Rubus fruticosus aggregate species</i> |
| Bitou bush | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subspecies rotundata</i> |
| Boneseed | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subspecies monilifera</i> |
| Chilean needle grass | <i>Nassella neesiana</i> |
| Golden Dodder | <i>Cuscuta campestris</i> |
| Harrisia cactus | <i>Harrisia species</i> |
| Lantana | <i>Lantana species</i> |
| Pampas grass | <i>Cortaderia species</i> |
| Prickly pear | <i>Opuntia species except O. ficus-indica</i> |
| Prickly Pear | <i>Cylindropuntia species</i> |
| Rhus tree | <i>Toxicodendron succedanea</i> |
| Scotch/English broom | <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> |
| Serrated tussock | <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> |

Class 5 – Restricted Weeds

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME (ALTERNATE SCIENTIFIC NAME) |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| African feather grass | <i>Pennisetum macrourum</i> |
| African turnip weed | <i>Sisymbrium runcinatum</i> |
| African turnip weed | <i>Sisymbrium thellungii</i> |
| Annual ragweed | <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> |
| Arrowhead | <i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i> |
| Artichoke thistle | <i>Cynara cardunculus</i> |
| Athel tree/Athel pine | <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> |
| Bear Skin Fescue | <i>Festuca gautieri</i> |
| Bridal creeper | <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> (<i>Myrisophyllum asparagoides, Asparagus medeoloides</i>) |
| Burr ragweed | <i>Ambrosia confertiflora</i> |
| Cabomba | <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> |
| Cayenne snakeweed | <i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis (Stachytarpheta urticifolia)</i> |
| Clockweed | <i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> |
| Clockweed | <i>Gaura parviflora</i> |
| Corn sowthistle | <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> |
| Dodder | <i>All Cuscuta species except the native species C. australis, C. tasmanica and C. victoriana</i> |
| Espartillo | <i>Achnatherum brachychaetum (Stipa brachychaetum)</i> |
| Fine-bristled burr grass | <i>Cenchrus brownii</i> |
| Fountain grass | <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> |
| Gallon's curse | <i>Cenchrus biflorus</i> |
| Glaucous star thistle | <i>Carthamus glaucus</i> |
| Golden thistle | <i>Scolymus hispanicus</i> |
| Lantana | <i>Lantana species</i> |
| Leafy elodea/Dense waterweed/Egeria | <i>Egeria densa (Elodea densa)</i> |
| Long-leaf willow primrose | <i>Ludwigia longifolia</i> |
| Mexican poppy | <i>Argemone mexicana</i> |
| Mossman River grass | <i>Cenchrus echinatus</i> |
| Onion grass | <i>All Romulea species and varieties except R. rosea var. australis</i> |
| Oxalis | <i>All Oxalis species and varieties except the native species O. chnoodes, O. exilis, O. perennans, O. radicata, O. rubens, and O. thompsoniae</i> |
| Red rice | <i>Oryza rufipogon</i> |
| Sagittaria | <i>Sagittaria platyphylla (Sagittaria graminea)</i> |
| Sand oat | <i>Avena strigosa</i> |
| Smooth-stemmed turnip | <i>Brassica barrelieri subspecies oxyrrhina (Brassica oxyrrhina)</i> |
| Soldier thistle | <i>Picnomon acarna</i> |
| Texas blueweed | <i>Helianthus ciliaris</i> |
| Willows | <i>Salix species except S. babylonica, S. x reichardtii, S. x calodendron</i> |
| Yellow nutgrass | <i>Cyperus esculentus</i> |

Additional non-saleable weeds

The following weeds are listed as notifiable weeds in particular parts of the State and as a consequence cannot be sold or purchased in any other part of the State. This list is in addition to the weeds listed above.

| COMMON NAME | BOTANICAL NAME |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Blue Hounds Tongue | <i>Cynoglossum creticum</i> |
| Cape Broom | <i>Genista monspessulana</i> |
| Hygrophila | <i>Hygrophila costata</i> |
| Mesquite | <i>Prosopis species</i> |
| Parkinsonia | <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> |

Must not be sold or purchased.

WHAT IS A NOXIOUS WEED?

Each of us probably has a definition of the term 'weed' which does not exactly coincide with anyone else's definition. Broadly speaking a 'weed' is best defined as a plant growing out of place or where it is not wanted.

Weeds cost the Australian community some \$4.0 billion annually. Over two-thirds (66%) of our weeds were introduced legally as attractive garden ornamentals. Every year at least 12 new species become naturalized somewhere in Australia. Of these at least four become significant or major weeds.

Although there are many plants that could be classed as weeds, only those plants that spread widely and have a detrimental effect on the environment, or economy are considered as candidates for declaration as a noxious weed. Declared noxious weeds are proclaimed by Order of the Minister for the Department of Primary Industries under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. There is a legal requirement on landowners and occupiers to control these weeds once declared. A weed is declared noxious only if reasonable and enforceable means are available to control it.

The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 specifies five control classes. Every declared noxious weed is placed within a class. Following are the five classes and the specified action for each class:

Class 1 – State Prohibited Weeds*

Class 1 noxious weeds are plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment and are not present in the State or are present only to limited extent.

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 requires for a Class 1 noxious weed, "The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant."

The control objective for weed control Class 1 is to prevent the introduction and establishment of those plants in NSW.

Class 2 – Regionally Prohibited Weeds*

Class 2 noxious weeds are plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of a region but are not present in the region or are present only to limited extent.

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 requires for a Class 2 noxious weed, "The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant."

The control objective for weed control Class 2 is to prevent the introduction and establishment of those plants in parts of NSW.

Class 3 – Regionally Controlled Weeds

Class 3 noxious weeds are plants that pose a serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area and are not widely distributed in the area but are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 requires for a Class 3 noxious weed, "The weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed."

The control objective for weed control Class 3 is to reduce the area and impact of those plants in parts of NSW.

Class 4 – Locally Controlled Weeds

Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a serious threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 requires for a Class 4 noxious weed, "The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority and the plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed".

The control objective for weed control Class 4 is to minimise the negative impact of those plants on the economy, community or environment of NSW.

Class 5 – Restricted Weeds*

Class 5 noxious weeds are plants that are likely, by their sale or the sale of their seeds or movement within the State or area of the State, to spread in the State or outside the State.

The Noxious Weed Act 1993 requires for a Class 5 noxious weed, "The requirements in the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 for a notifiable weed must be complied with."

The control objective for weed control class 5 is to prevent the introduction of those plants into NSW, the spread of those plants within NSW or from NSW to another jurisdiction. The aim is to prevent their sale, propagation and distribution.

* Class 1, 2 and 5 weeds are Notifiable Weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

As Notifiable weeds their presence must be reported to the LCA (IDNWA) within 3 days of owners or occupiers becoming aware of any plants on the land. They also must not be sold, propagated or knowingly transported. A Permit under Section 34 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 is required prior to the movement or transportation of any notifiable weed material.