

Environmental weeds

Choking our native plants

Natural Resources
Adelaide and
Mt Lofty Ranges



www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au



Government of
South Australia



Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

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Backyards
4 Wildlife

This chart has been revised and updated by Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges from the versions by the Urban Biodiversity Unit. An original version was produced by Landcare South Australia, State Flora, Animal and Plant Control Commission (Primary Industries and Resources SA) and the Mount Lofty Ranges Catchment Program in March 1995. We also acknowledge the assistance of Richard Carter, David Cooke, Animal and Plant Control Commission and Gintaras (Ginty) Kubilius.

Photographs

David Taylor (Bridal Veil); Jerry Smith (English Ivy, Spanish Heath, Cacti, Desert Ash, Olive); Colin Wilson (Couch Grass, Fennel); A. Dean (Pampas Grass); Katrina Warner SCCC (Agapanthus); Mark Imhof (Gladioli); J. Donnelly (Euryops Daisy); Jackie Crompton (Topped Lavender); Deb Agnew (Atheil Pine); Urban Biodiversity Unit (Sand Rocket, Giant Reed, Swamp Sheoak); South Australian Animal and Plant Control Commission; Vivien Freshwater, Friends of Sherbrook Forest; Landcare South Australia; Geoffrey Bishop; Darrell Kraehenbuehl; Enid L. Robertson; Gintaras (Ginty) Kubilius; Susan Lawrie (Asparagus); Dragos Moise (Ixia, Sparaxis, Iris); Biosecurity SA (African Feathergrass).

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Environmental weeds of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges

Grasses



Kikuyu (eastern Africa)

Pennisetum clandestinum
Flowers spring to autumn. Spread by runners, dumped lawn clippings and garden waste.



Fountain Grass (eastern Africa)

Pennisetum setaceum ▲
Flowers summer to autumn. Spread by wind, water, people, vehicles and dumped garden waste.



Giant Reed (sthn Europe and Asia)

Arundo donax
Flowers late summer. Spread by dumped garden waste (stems and rhizomes) in wet areas.



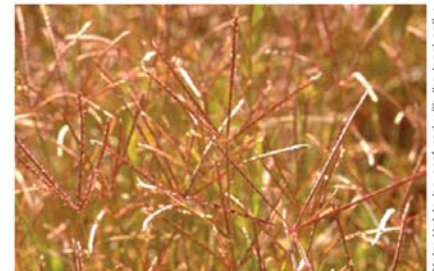
African Feather Grass (sthn Africa)

Pennisetum macrorum ▲
Flowers spring to autumn. Spread by wind and dumped garden waste.



Pampas Grass (South America)

Cortaderia selloana, *Cortaderia jubata*
Flowers most seasons. Spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.



Couch Grass (sthn Europe and Mediterranean)

Cynodon dactylon
Flowers summer. Spread by wind, water, machinery, dumped lawn clippings or garden waste.

Notes: Not to be confused with the local native windmill-grasses (Chloris spp.)

Climbers and creepers



Bridal Creeper (South Africa)

Asparagus asparagoides ▲
Flowers winter to spring. Spread by birds and dumped garden waste. ❌



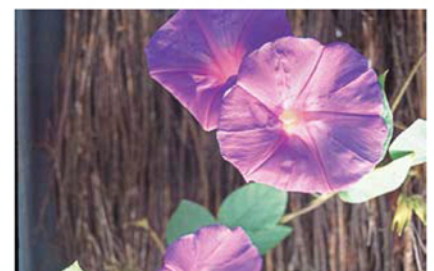
Blackberry (Europe)

Rubus spp. ▲
Flowers late spring and summer. Spread by birds, other animals and dumped garden waste. ❌



Asparagus Fern (southern Africa)

Asparagus scandens ▲
Flowers spring to winter. Spread by birds and dumped garden waste. ❌



Blue/Morning Glory (pantropical)

Ipomoea indica, *Ipomoea congesta*
Flowers spring to autumn. Spread by dumped garden waste, stem fragments readily take root.

Environmental weeds of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges

Trees



Olive (Mediterranean)

Olea europaea

Flowers late spring. Spread by birds and foxes.



Athel Pine (nthn Africa and Asia)

Tamarix aphylla

Flowers summer, drops seeds autumn. Spread vegetatively or by seed in wind, water or by animals.



Note: Not to be confused with the local native sheoak (*Allocasuarina* spp.)



Swamp Sheoak (coastal NSW and QLD)

Casuarina glauca

Rarely flowers. Spread by prolific production of root suckers, especially in wetter areas.



Note: Not to be confused with local *Allocasuarina* spp.



Sweet Pittosporum (eastern Australia)

Pittosporum undulatum

Flowers spring. Spread by suckers and seeds stuck to animals/people, also by dumped garden waste/soil.



Desert Ash (Mediterranean)

Fraxinus angustifolia

Flowers spring before leaves appear. Spread by seeds and suckers.



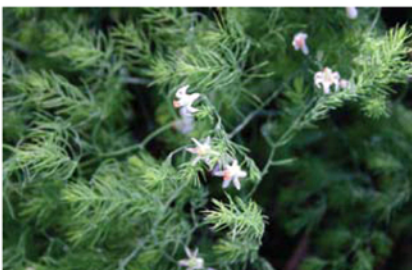
Azzarola Hawthorn (Middle East)

Crataegus sinaica, *Crataegus monogyna*

Flowers spring. Spread by animals (e.g. birds, possums, foxes) and dumped garden waste/soil.



Climbers and creepers



Bridal Veil (southern Africa)

Asparagus declinatus

Flowers autumn to winter. Spread by birds and tubers in dumped garden waste.



English Ivy (Europe)

Hedera helix

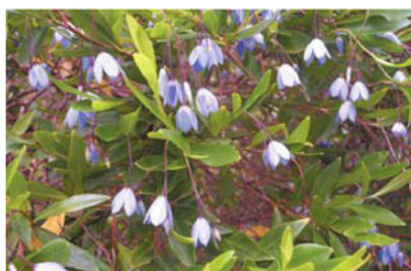
Flowers late autumn to winter. Spread by birds and dumped garden waste.



Blue Periwinkle (Mediterranean)

Vinca major

Flowers winter to early summer. Spread by dumped garden waste, stems readily take root.



Blue-bell Creeper (Western Australia)

Billardiera heterophylla

Flowers spring. Spread by birds, foxes and insects, and dumped contaminated soil.



Note: Not to be confused with the local native Sweet Apple-berry (*Billardiera cymosa*)

= Declared plants

Every landowner in South Australia has legal responsibilities to manage declared plants. They are plants that are regulated under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and are often significant weed threats to our State's primary production industries, natural environments and public safety.

Plant species may be declared under various sections of the NRM Act, relating to:

- movement
- sale
- notification
- control.

Find out what provisions of the NRM Act apply to each declared plant in your area by contacting your local natural resources centre or at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity.

What you can do to help

Please study this brochure carefully. You might be surprised at how many species you recognise, as well as how many you might be harbouring in your garden!

Many weed species can be hand pulled, dug out or cut down. Others may require poisoning using registered herbicides. It is important to dispose of garden waste in a way that prevents further spread (some species like the asparagus creepers will need to be sealed in a bag and disposed of when they have died). Use your council's green waste bin or your compost heap. Removing species before they go to seed is a good way to minimise the risk of spread.

Where can you get information?

For more information about proclaimed weeds and how best to control them, contact your local natural resources centre or visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaide/mountloftyranges.

Alternatively, you can visit the Primary Industries and Regional SA (PIRSA) Biosecurity SA division webpage at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity. To report illegal activity or suspected sightings of plant pests contact the 24-hour emergency hotline on 1800 084 881.

If you need plants identified, the Plant Biodiversity Centre (State Herbarium) (08) 8222 9308 or your local natural resources centre may be able to assist.

Natural Resources Centres:

Black Hill	115 Maryvale Road, Athelstone SA 5076 Ph: 08 8336 0901
Eastwood	205 Greenhill Road, Eastwood SA 5063 Ph: 08 8273 9100
Gawler	8 Adelaide Road, Gawler Sth SA 5118 Ph: 08 8523 7700
Victor Harbor	3 Eyre Terrace, Victor Harbor SA 5211 Ph: 08 8552 0300
Willunga	5 Aldinga Road, Willunga SA 5172 Ph: 08 8550 3400
Woodside	87 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside SA 5244 Ph: 08 8550 3400 Call to make appt or to enquire about opening hours.

= Weed of National Significance (WoNS)

Thirty-two Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) have been identified by Australian governments based on their invasiveness, potential for spread as well as their environmental, social and economic impacts. Individual landowners and managers are ultimately responsible for managing WoNS, while state and territory governments are responsible for overall legislation and administration.

The development of a strategic plan for each WoNS helps define responsibilities and identify strategies and actions to control each species. It also provides a framework to establish consistent guidelines for all parties, identifying priorities for weed management across the nation with the aim of minimising the impact of weeds on Australia's environmental, economic and social assets.

For more information on WoNS and for access to key weed policies, regulations, current issues, national initiatives, research, extension, training and personnel see the Australian Weeds Council website at www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/

Environmental weeds of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges

What is Backyards for Wildlife?

Backyards for Wildlife is an initiative that promotes wildlife friendly gardening using local native (indigenous) plants.

Suburban gardens make up a large amount of Greater Adelaide. By developing an environmentally friendly garden that uses the five basic principles of *Backyards for Wildlife* there is significant potential for improved conservation of our local flora and fauna.

These five principles include:

1. use local native plants
2. use plants of differing heights
3. provide flowers throughout the year
4. manage the impact your pets can have on your garden
5. minimise chemical use.

Using local natives also provides broader environmental benefits including less water use and a reduced threat of invasive environmental weeds.

Please consider the impact that your garden can have on our local environment.

Visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adalaidemltoflyranges for more information.



What is a weed?

We often think of weeds as those small annoying perennial plants like thistles and sour sobs that grow during the wetter months. However, any plant that is growing at a site where it is not wanted can generally be regarded as a weed. This can include bushes, trees and even native species when they grow outside of their natural range. Weeds often smother and out-compete indigenous plants, degrade and destroy unique habitats, and threaten the wildlife dependent on those habitats.

When does a garden plant become a weed?

Australia is now a multicultural country, but it is not only people who have made their home here from around the world. Our gardens are full of plants that originated from across the globe. Some are grown for food or economic gain, others for their flowers or because they remind people of their cultural heritage.

Over the years, many common garden plants have escaped into open spaces and native bushland where they threaten the health and value of those areas. Apart from the environmental damage these escapees pose, the substantial expense of removal and control are another cost of weeds. Some garden escapees are already well established in natural areas while others are in the early stages of invasion. We need to halt the progress of these plants and reduce the threat from other potential garden escapees. Plant species that have escaped from our gardens and invaded our bushlands are referred to as environmental weeds.

How do plants become garden escapees?

You may not realise it but your garden could be a source of garden escapees. Many of the plants we grow in our gardens escape to invade our natural bushland. Birds spread seeds after eating berries and fruits, sending weeds far and wide. Wind and rain help to disperse seeds, and the dumping of garden waste into natural areas spreads weeds that grow from corms, bulbs and stems.

Shrubs



Boneseed (southern Africa)

Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. *monilifera*

Flowers winter to spring. Spread by birds, ants and water, also dumped garden waste and soil.



Cotoneasters (nthn Europe and China)

Cotoneaster spp.

Flowers spring. Spread by birds, water and dumped garden waste.



Montpellier Broom (South Africa)

Genista monspessulana

Flowers spring. Spread by animals, people and water.



English/Scotch Broom (nthn Africa, Europe)

Cytisus scoparius

Flowers spring. Spread by wind, water, animals, machinery, contaminated soil and people.



Buckthorn (Mediterranean)

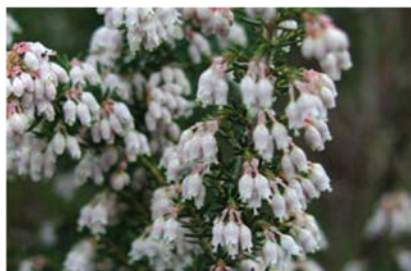
Rhamnus alaternus

Flowers early spring. Spread by birds, foxes and potentially possums.



Non-local wattles (Australia)

Acacia spp.
Some wattles planted outside their natural ranges can become weeds in the AMLR, such as the Cootamundra Wattle, Golden Wreath Wattle, Flinders Ranges Wattle and Coastal Wattle.



Spanish Heath (south-western Europe)

Erica lusitanica

Flowers winter to early spring. Spread by wind, water, animals, people and dumped garden waste/soil.



Euryops Daisy (southern Africa)

Euryops abrotanifolius

Can flower most of the year. Spread by dumped garden waste and seed.



Succulents (pantropical)

(e.g. *Agave* spp., *Aloe* spp., *Opuntia* spp. ▲✕)

Flowers and reproductive strategies will vary between species. Spread by their ability to produce new plants from stem cuttings and fragments.



Topped Lavender (Mediterranean)

Lavandula stoechas

Flowers late winter; seeds late spring. Spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.

Note: Not to be confused with the native *Furcraea* spp.

Note: Not to be confused with local *Acacia* spp.

Environmental weeds of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges

Herbs, bulbs and corms



Gazania (southern Africa) ▲
Gazania spp.
Flowers most of the year. Spread by wind and water, also dumped garden waste.



Arum Lily (South Africa) ▲
Zantedeschia aethiopica
Flowers late winter to spring. Spread by dumped garden waste and berries spread by birds.



Agapanthus (South Africa)
Agapanthus praecox ssp. *orientalis*
Flowers early summer; seeds summer to autumn. Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.



African/Wild Iris (southern Africa)
Dietes spp.
Flowers summer to autumn. Spread by bulbs and dumped garden waste.



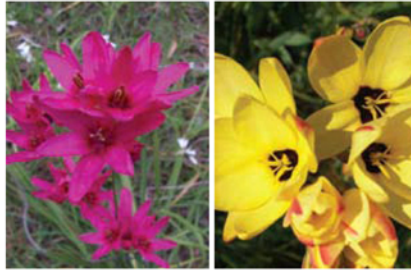
Sand Rocket/Lincoln Weed (Europe) ▲
Diplotaxis tenuifolia
Flowers spring to summer; seeds late summer. Spread by wind, water, animals, garden clippings, machinery, hay and fodder.



Sparaxis (South Africa)
Sparaxis spp.
Flowers spring. Spread by seed, cormels and corms.



Bulbil Watsonia (South Africa) ▲
Watsonia meriana var. *bulbilifera*
Flowers spring to early summer. Spread by dumped garden waste, soil, water or machinery.



Ixia (South Africa)
Ixia spp.
Flowers spring and summer. Spread by water and dumped garden waste.



Fennel (sthn Europe and nthn Africa)
Foeniculum vulgare
Flowers all year but mainly in spring; seeds in summer. Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.



Gladioli (Africa and Mediterranean)
Gladiolus spp.
Flowers spring to early summer. Spread by corms and cormels, also dumped garden waste.

▲ = Declared plants

Every landowner in South Australia has legal responsibilities to manage declared plants.

✘ = Weed of National Significance (WoNS)

See overleaf for full descriptions of declared plants and weeds of national significance.

Why are garden weeds such a problem?

Garden escapees have the potential to smother or out-compete native plants and therefore drastically change the make up and natural balance of our remnant bushland areas. This can result in serious impacts upon the health and viability of our native wildlife. The uniqueness and special character of our natural areas will be changed and possibly lost forever unless we act now.

Alternatives to garden weeds

With an increased awareness of the need for drought-tolerant species, many gardeners are looking to succulents, grasses and Mediterranean plants. Many of these species have the potential to become the next crop of garden escapees. Planting local natives avoids these problems and provides food and habitat for local wildlife.

Originally there were over 850 species of native plants growing across Adelaide, providing a broad range of interesting forms, textures and flowering times. Many of these are available from nurseries (visit www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges for a list of native plant growers) and most survive on little more than local rainfall once established.

Other weeds to keep a watch for:

Grasses

- Phalaris (*Phalaris aquatica*)
- Rice Millet (*Piptatherum miliaceum*)
- Paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*)
- Pussy Tail (*Pentaschistis pallida*)
- Buffalo Grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*)
- Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) ▲

Herbs, bulbs and corms

- Three-cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*) ▲
- Pincushion (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)
- Monadenia (*Disa bracteata*)
- Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*/M. *miniata*) ▲
- Soursob (*Oxalis pes-caprae*)
- Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*) ✘▲

Creepers

- Wandering Dew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)
- Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*)

Shrubs

- Mirror Bush (*Coprosma repens*) ▲
- Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*) ▲
- Cape Honey-flower (*Melianthus major*)
- African Furze (*Muraltia heisteria*)
- Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*)
- Green Poison-berry (*Cestrum parqui*)
- Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) ✘▲
- African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) ✘▲

Trees

- Cape Leeuwin Wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*)
- River Sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)
- Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)
- Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) ▲
- Willows (*Salix* spp.) ✘▲
- Monterey/Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*)
- Tree Lucerne (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*)

Please note, plant species names are subject to change over time. See www.flora.sa.gov.au for former names and recent updates.