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ABOUT THIS BOOK:

The weeds described in this book have been classified according to their type as above. They have then been arranged alphabetically by their botanical or scientific name. Common name is also included.

Icons and symbols have been created to indicate appropriate methods of removal and features specific to each plant.

This book contains most of the serious and common weeds to be found within Warrnambool, however we have not been able to include every weed. Therefore we have included a supplementary list of species inside the rear cover that we have not described.

DISCLAIMER:

This publication may be of assistance to you but the publishers do not guarantee that it is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes. They therefore disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

INTRODUCTION

Ten per cent of Australia's plants are introduced weeds brought here from all around the world. Most of them have escaped into our bushland, grasslands and coast from parks and private gardens. Some are listed in government legislation as 'noxious weeds' and some have been voluntarily withdrawn from sale by plant nurseries. However, there are still many environmental weeds in backyards, public gardens, roadside reserves and for sale at nurseries, markets and school fetes.

Warrnambool's coastline, wetlands, rivers and creeks, farmland and public spaces are all infected with environmental weeds. These areas are also our greatest natural assets – they are a storehouse of local indigenous plants, animals and birds; they are our much-loved recreation areas; and they provide a beautiful natural backdrop to our growing city and rural communities. Taking care of this natural wealth for future generations is our task today. The purpose of this booklet is to raise awareness of the impacts of weeds on our natural environment by providing you with a tool to identify weeds of concern in Warrnambool and suggest appropriate methods of treatment and prevention.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL INDIGENOUS PLANTS

Local indigenous plants are plants that naturally grew here before the arrival of Europeans. They evolved over time in response to the specific soils, climate, coastal environment and other factors (such as fire) that are unique to the Warrnambool area. Indigenous birds, animals and insects evolved alongside plants and, in some cases, they are dependent on each other for survival. Our local indigenous plants are part of our unique natural heritage – something to celebrate, learn from, respect and protect.

THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

Environmental weeds are plants that invade and take over our natural ecosystems, areas like national parks, remnant bushland, coastal areas and native grassland. They destroy native vegetation and ecosystems by competing with local indigenous plants for moisture, light and nutrients. Because they have few local natural diseases and predators, they can grow very strongly and may end up dominating an area. This leads to a loss in biodiversity, less food and habitat for native wildlife and damage to Warrnambool's beautiful visual landscapes.

INTRODUCTION

Weeds listed as ‘Noxious’ (for example, blackberry, water hyacinth and cape tulip) are either targeted by government programs for eradication or control, or by landowners who are responsible by law under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

HOW WEEDS SPREAD.

Weeds invade our natural environment in many ways. Seed is blown by wind, carried by water, birds, animals, on vehicle tyres or on people’s shoes and clothes. Weeds that produce bulbs and tubers spread underground, as do those that send up new growth from roots. Garden rubbish dumped on roadsides, in the bush or along the coast is a common cause of weed spread.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FROM WEEDS.

- * Dispose of garden rubbish carefully – either compost it well to destroy all roots, bulbs and seed; burn it; or tie securely in a plastic bag and have it buried in a landfill.
- * Choose to plant local indigenous plants in your garden.
- * Over time, replace any weed plants in your garden with indigenous plants or other non-weedy species.
- * Help your friends and neighbours identify weed plants in their gardens and direct them to places where they can get information on Warrnambool’s indigenous plants.
- * Join a Landcare group such as Warrnambool Coastcare/Landcare or get neighbours together to help with weed removal and revegetation on public or private land.
- * Become a “Weed Spotter”, join the Weed Alert program and help identify weeds before they become established. contact Department of Primary Industries, Ballarat Ph. 53366760 or www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds

FURTHER INFORMATION ON WEEDS, INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

Victorian Government, Department of Primary Industries, Warrnambool. Ph: 5561 9900

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, Warrnambool. Ph: 5562 6104

Warrnambool City Council. Ph: 5559 4800

Warrnambool & District Society for Growing Australian Plants. www.warrnambool.org/sgap

Weeds Australia: www.weed.org.au/

For Herbicides and Their Use: www.weeds.crec.org.au/main/enviroweeds.html or visit www.apvma.gov.au

REFERENCES USED

FOR MORE INFORMATION THE FOLLOWING PUBLICATIONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Blood, K. (2003), *Environmental Weeds: a field guide for SE Australia*, Blooming Books, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

City of Frankston, Shire of Hastings, Shire of Mornington (undated), *Mornington Peninsula Pest Plants*, Victoria, Australia.

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Cochrane, Sandy (2006), *Alpine Shire Weeds: identification and control*, Alpine Shire, Victoria, Australia.

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www.dpi.vic.gov.au/ Government of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia.

Gullan, P, Viridans Pty Ltd, (2005), *Wild Plants of Victoria 2005, An Atlas and Photographic Guide to Victorian Plants on CD Rom*. Bentleigh East, Victoria, Australia.

Lindenmayer, D (2007), *On Borrowed Time: Australia's Environmental Crisis*, CSIRO Publishing/Penguin, Victoria, Australia.

Muyt, A. (2001) *Bush Invaders of South-east Australia*, RG & FJ Richardson, Meredith, Victoria, Australia.

Williams S, Fiedler M, (1998) *Attack of the Killer Weeds*, Department of Land and Water Conservation, NSW, Australia.

Wind A, Burns D, Kinsey M, et al. (undated), *Coastal Weeds of Tasmania*, DPIWE, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

"PLANTS OF THE GREAT SOUTH WEST" is a book published by the Warrnambool & District Society for Growing Australian Plants. An order form can be found on their web site at

www.warrnambool.org/sgap

This book provides comprehensive information on indigenous plants found right across South West Victoria.



WEED CONTROL TECHNIQUES



Hand Pull & Dispose

Good for small numbers of plants. Try to remove all roots to stop plant regrowing. Burn, compost or seal plants in a plastic bag for burial in landfill.



Dig Out & Dispose

Good for small numbers of plants. Dig out roots to stop plant from regrowing. Burn, compost or seal plants in a plastic bag for burial in landfill.



Chop & Paint

Good for many woody plants. Cut through outer bark around the trunk to the softer inner bark with an axe or tomahawk. Paint wounds immediately with herbicide. Soil contamination of wounds will inhibit herbicide effectiveness.



Scrape & Paint

Good for vine-like plants. Scrape off outer bark around the trunk with knife or sharp tool. Paint wounds immediately with herbicide.



Drill & Fill

Good for large woody plants. Drill several holes into the plants' sapwood on a downward angle. Fill each hole with herbicide immediately.



Cut & Paint

Good for many climbing and woody plants. Cut plant off at ground level. Paint immediately with herbicide.



Slash or Mow

A good temporary measure to prevent weeds from seeding. Take care that the slasher or mower does not spread weed seeds to another site.



Heavy Machinery

Good for large scale removal of woody weeds. After initial removal by tractor/bulldozer, weed regrowth can be dealt with by other methods. Take care machinery does not spread weed seeds and roots to another site.



Mulch & Smother

Cover weed infested area with a thick layer of material that plants can not grow through. Revegetate with appropriate local, native plants.

WEED CONTROL TECHNIQUES



Pasture Improvement & Revegetation

Decrease opportunities for weed invasion through good pasture and grazing management. Revegetate problem areas with appropriate local, native plants.



Solarisation

Cover weed infested area with plastic sheeting to 'cook' weeds. Leave for several weeks to ensure success. Revegetate with appropriate local, native plants.



Controlled Burn

Can be a good option to remove weeds and weed seed banks and to encourage rejuvenation of native species. Should always be planned and conducted to minimise risks. If resources and experience are minimal, contact local CFA or Conservation Departments for advice and assistance. A Council permit would also be required.



Spray Herbicide

Apply appropriate herbicide using a knapsack sprayer or powered spray unit. **ALWAYS READ THE LABEL FOR CORRECT USAGE AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS.** Wear suitable safety clothing and equipment and take all precautionary measures to avoid direct contact with herbicides. Consider other control techniques first. Always minimise herbicide use and prevent spray drift onto non-target species. Ensure the appropriate herbicide is used around waterways as frogs and fish can be effected. Choose the right chemical for a specific weed.

PLANNING CONTROLS.

Removal of tree or shrub weeds in this booklet from private land may require a Planning Permit from the Council. Contact Warrnambool City Council for more information on phone no 5559 4800.

WEED REMOVAL ON CROWN LAND AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

Removal of weeds and other vegetation on Crown Land or Public Open Space is the responsibility of Council, approval must be given by Council and in some cases the Department of Sustainability and Environment before removal can occur. Contact Warrnambool City Council on phone no 5559 4800.

SYMBOLS EXPLAINED

Noxious

Declared noxious weeds in Victoria are defined within four categories.

State Prohibited Weeds which are to be excluded from Victoria and are to be eradicated if possible whenever found.

Regionally Prohibited Weeds which are to be managed so as to be eradicated from the region.

Regionally Controlled Weeds are usually widespread and land owners are expected to take all reasonable steps to control their growth.

Restricted Weeds are prohibited from sale either as plants, seeds or as contaminants in other materials.



Weeds labelled like this are particularly aggressive when they invade our natural environment. They out-compete other plants for moisture and nutrients and smother our indigenous native species.



Some plants are poisonous and dangerous to humans and animals. Gloves and protective goggles should be worn if handling these plants.

Friend or Foe

Some plants that are proven to be weedy also have redeeming characteristics. For example, in its natural coastal dune habitat, Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*) is an excellent erosion control plant, however in other areas it is an aggressive weed. Care should be taken and advice sought if you are growing these plants.



Above: Pampas Grass growing out of control within Lake Pertobe area, Warrnambool..