



WEEDS

ARUM LILY

Glossary

Perennial

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons

Succulent:

Fleshy parts of a plant with a thickly cellular construction.

Tuberous:

A swollen, fleshy, underground stem or root, bearing buds from which new plant shoots arise.

For More Information

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Zantedeschia aethiopica

Introduction

Arum Lily is a popular plant in suburban gardens, is still sold in nurseries and is still used in the cut flower trade.

It is also a common and widespread serious weed of pasture and bushland and a serious weed along creek lines and in wet areas of south Western Australia.

This is one species that is often discarded irresponsibly in garden refuse, which introduces the weed into new areas.

The yellow spike and white flower produced are poisonous and have been reported to be responsible for the death of children and may be toxic to livestock.

The sap is also reported to cause eczema among adults.

Origin

South Africa.

Life form

Perennial succulent.

Status

Declared noxious weed.

Description

Tuft of leaves arising from tuberous roots; up to 1 m tall.

Leaves: Dark green; shiny; succulent; 25 cm long.

Flowers/Seed heads: White; large funnel-shaped; 10 cm across; central pencil-like column of minute male and female flowers.

Reproduction & Dispersal

Reproduces via seeds, which persist in the seed bank for up to 1 year.

The spread of the species is primarily by suckering from underground storage tubes and fleshy roots.

Seed and berry dispersal by birds and floods is another major mechanism of weed spread.

Growing Habit

Forms dense stands in pastures under trees in wetter places.

Distribution

From Dandaragan area - Albany, Garden Island. Population in Geraldton.

Growing Season

Growth commences in Winter and the plant dies back over Summer.

Flowering Season

June to November.

Fruits

Yellow-green berries (from female flowers); 10 mm.

Effect's on Ecosystem

It crowds other plants, such as understorey species and impedes water flow.

Control

Manual Removal

Mechanical removal is only effective if all the root fragments are removed.

Removal of plants, including tubers and roots, by hand or digging, is difficult with old plants but is possible for seedlings.

Multiple rotary hoeing over a few years provide control. Cut flowers to prevent birds spreading seeds.

Chemical Treatment

Herbicides can also be used to control large infestation, best before flowering, or regrowth from cultivated areas.

Spot spray and follow-up to ensure sprouting tubers are sprayed.

Please see 'Herbicides and Pesticides' factsheet for more information about spraying chemicals.



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