



# WANTED

## FREESIA

### Glossary

**Basal**

Arising from the base of the plant.

**Bulbils**

Fleshy bud that may fall to produce a new plant.

**Corm**

Storage organ, formed from enlarged underground stem base.

**Cormel**

Produced from previous year's corm (asexual reproduction)

**Perennial**

With a life span extending over more than two growing seasons.

**Spikes**

Unbranched inflorescence of sessile (stalkless) flowers

**Tufted**

Loose clumping of stems at base.

### For More Information

**Contact**

Eastern Hills Catchment Management Program  
Tel: (08) 9424 2222

Shire of Mundaring  
Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Tel: (08) 9290 6685

Shire of Kalamunda  
Bushcare Co-ordinator  
Tel: (08) 9257 9936



### Introduction

Freesia is a horticultural hybrid of two South African species, but is now a serious bushland weed, occurring in a variety of disturbed habitats and amongst grasses in woodlands or in disturbed areas.

Ironically, they are still sold in nurseries as a popular garden plant.

### Origin

South Africa.

### Status

A priority weed species for the Shire of Kalamunda and the Shire of Mundaring.

### Lifeform

Perennial herb.

### Description

Tufted; 0.1–0.3 m high; with leaves arising annually from a corm and erect flowering stems.

**Leaves:** Soft light green; basal.

**Flowers:** White/cream-yellow; sweet scented; produced in spikes; flowers are all arranged on one side of the flower stalk.

### Reproduction & Dispersal

Reproduces by seeds, corms and bulbils.

### Distribution

South of Geraldton - Esperance; inland.

### Flowering Season

July - October.

### Effects on Ecosystem

Seriously invading bushland, granite outcrops and woodlands.

### Control

Difficult to control because they produce seeds, corms and bulbils.

**Manual**

Plants can be dug out, ensuring all corms or bulbils are removed. Loosen the soil before removal to prevent the corm breaking off, best done when soil is moist.

Cut and bag any seeds, cormels or bulbils before digging out the rest of the plant. Grazing and mowing provide control. However, do not mow or slash after seed or cormel formation, as this may increase spread.

**Chemicals**

Various methods which usually requires follow-up treatments. Start control at the top of the catchment to stop seed and cormels transported in water reinfesting treated areas. Replant with native species and avoid any roadworks that carry new cormels into the area.

Please see "Herbicides and Pesticides" fact sheet for more information about spraying chemicals.

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