



PEST PLANTS OF THE EASTERN HILLS

Weed Control

Guiding Principles

To be used in conjunction with a restoration strategy. Those populations occurring in:

- *Very good-excellent* condition bushland should be treated first.
- *Fair-good* condition bushland should be treated next.
- *Poor* condition bushland should be treated last. Generally, these areas are not suitable for targeted weed control.

Species-led Control

For populations that:

- Are small.
- Are relatively easy to remove.
- Have a high potential to spread and become a future problem.

Site-Led Control

For populations that:

- Have widespread and well-established populations.
- Require concentrated, long-term efforts to remove.
- Are highly detrimental to the ecological functions of bushland.

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

Environmental Weeds and Deciduous Trees

A 'weed' is a plant that has been found growing outside of its original geographical region.

Weeds are generally extremely prolific and very hardy, with vigorous growth and reproductive habits. They are invaders to a region and hence, have no natural predators or growth limiting diseases to control their spread. Many species have originated in residential gardens and roadside verges and have since spread into surrounding bushland.

Once established, these species out-compete native plant species. This impacts on the native fauna that depends on the flora as habitat and food for survival. Some weed species also provide a haven for introduced fauna, such as rabbits and foxes, allowing further degradation of the native flora.

This gradual degradation of natural bushland can lead to localised extinctions of native birds and animals, impacting on biodiversity on wider regional and state scales. On farm land, weeds can poison stock, affect the usage of land and reduce pasture areas and cost farmers 14% of their income. Weeds are also a greater fire hazard than native species.

Weed invasion is an increasing problem in the

Shires of Kalamunda and Mundaring, where 271 weed species have been documented. Weed control on public land is the responsibility of Government, both Local and State, in partnership with local community members and groups. Private landowners must take responsibility for weed control measures on their properties. However, advice and assistance is available from public land managers.

Environmental weeds change the nature of our bushland by competing vigorously for available space, crowding out the native species and can block waterways. On farm land, they can poison stock, affect the usage of land and reduce pasture areas.

As the native vegetation is lost, many native animals disappear from the area, as the plants were a vital food source or habitat. As the flowering undergrowth disappears, weeds take over.

To preserve the natural environment of the Eastern Hills Region, weeds must be identified and removed.

Deciduous Trees around Waterways

Organic pollution from accumulated leaf material can be a serious problem for south-west rivers.

Widespread clearing of hard-leaved forests and woodlands and the establishment of pastures, annual crops and deciduous horticultural species, together with weed infestations along streamlines, produce many sources of decaying material, resulting in organic pollution.

With the clearing of streamlines, this material is easily washed into and along streams, collecting in pools and building up amongst inorganic sediment deposit. In naturally vegetated streams, this material would ordinarily collect amongst the vegetation, much of it never entering the stream channel, and would break down in the humid open air of the riparian zone.

Weeds also have the potential to block waterways and decrease flow. Some weeds have the ability to spread rapidly and form a dense mat above or below the water. This mat stops light entering the water and depletes the water body of oxygen. Fish and other creatures will die and native species will be shaded out.

Therefore, DO NOT CLEAR NATIVE VEGETATION OR PLANT DECIDUOUS TREES OR WEED SPECIES AROUND WATERWAYS.

In partnership with

