



Boneseed
Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. *monilifera*
ASTERACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:
A multi-branched shrub up to 3m with upright woody stems.
Flowers: Bright yellow, 5 to 8 petals, 20-30mm diameter, clustered at the end of the branches, appearing in winter and spring.
Leaves: Leathery, prominent mid-vein, on short, thick stalks. Toothed edges, often covered with a white cottony down.
Fruit: Round green berries that ripen to black. Each fruit contains one smooth, hard, bone-coloured seed.

- Notes:**
- Dense thickets eliminate the growth of indigenous species.
 - Fire sensitive but regenerates massively after burning.
 - Birds are the main agents for seed dispersal.
 - Plants are at least 18 months to 3 years old before flowering, remove younger plants before setting seed.
 - Fire stimulates the growth of seedlings.

Similar native species: Juvenile Boneseed can be confused with seedlings of the native Boobialla *Myoporum insulare*. Boneseed seedlings are covered in a white downy hair.

Status: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weedy facts: One plant can produce up to 50,000 seeds per year and the seed can remain viable in the soil for over 10 years. Boneseed was originally introduced to prevent soil erosion in coastal and inland areas.



Blackberry
Rubus fruticosus spp. *aggregata* ROSACEAE
Origin: Europe

Description:
A sprawling shrub or climbing plant growing in thickets from 2 to 3m high with stems arching and entangling, and covered in large, sharp prickles.
Flowers: White or pink flowers, 20-30mm in diameter, appear in late spring or summer.
Leaves: The large dark green leaves are alternate and divided into 3 or 5 leaflets, often with whitish hairs on the light green underside. There are short prickles on the leaf stalks and the underside of veins.
Fruit: Globe-shaped, 10-30mm diameter. Ripening in summer to autumn.

- Notes:**
- Blackberries are highly invasive plants, reproducing by seed and root suckers, and from trailing stems that take root and make new plants.
 - Forms dense, impenetrable thickets that exclude light from the soil surface, suppressing growth of indigenous species.
 - Fruit is attractive to birds and foxes which play a major role in dispersion.

Similar native species: Small-leaf Bramble *Rubus parvifolius*.
Status: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weed treatment:



Cape Broom (Montpellier Broom)
Genista monspessulana FABACEAE
Origin: Europe

Description:
Forms dense stands of shrubs to 3m high. Stems are ribbed and covered with short hairs.
Flowers: Yellow pea-like flowers at the end of the branches in late winter to spring.
Leaves: The leaves are formed in 3 leaflets that are broadly oval. Upper surface is mid to dark green - underside is lighter.
Fruit: Brown or black flat narrow pods that are densely covered with hairs.

- Notes:**
- Similar to Flax-leaf Broom but with broader, flat-margined leaflets and leaves on short stalks.
 - Often found on roadsides, disturbed areas and following fire.
 - Can be a harbour for rabbits and other vermin.
 - Is a prolific seeder, forming large seed banks that will remain in the ground for many years.

Status: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weedy facts: Cape Broom is the most widespread of several species of Broom that have invaded southern Australia.

Weed treatment:



Cape Wattle
Paraserianthes lophantha MIMOSACEAE
Origin: Native to Western Australia

Description:
A large shrub or small tree to 5m high. Stalks have prominent ridges.
Flowers: Greenish-yellow bottlebrush-like spikes in late winter and spring, with up to 4 spikes appearing in the leaf axil.
Leaves: Large, much-dissected, feathery leaves to 150mm long with up to 15 pairs of leaflets. Leaflets are silky downy underneath.
Fruit: Flowers are followed by large flat brown pods to 120mm long that split to expose the large black seeds.

- Notes:**
- Regarded as a major environmental weed in south-east of Australia due to its aggressive nature.
 - Seeds prolifically - seeds are spread by birds, wind, water and dumped garden waste.
 - Buried seed can remain viable in the soil for many years and potentially decades.
 - Fire stimulates the growth of seedlings.

Similar native species: Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii* and Silver Wattle *Acacia dealbata* may be mistaken for Cape Wattle when not in flower. No indigenous wattle has bottlebrush-like flowers.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weedy facts: Cape Wattle is not, as its name suggests, a wattle. It is however in the same family, Mimosaceae, so is a close relative.

Weed treatment:



Coast Tea-tree
Leptospermum laevigatum MYRTACEAE
Origin: Native to Coastal NSW and Victoria

Description:
A shrub or small tree to 4m high. The bark flakes in thin strips.
Flowers: Large white flowers to 20mm in diameter appear in late winter to early summer.
Leaves: Dull grey-green leaves. Flat, stiff, oval-shaped to 10mm wide with a small point.
Fruit: A deciduous, flat-topped, wrinkled cup-shaped capsule to 8mm across.

- Notes:**
- Has invaded areas since the 1983 bushfires, forming thickets on dunes and heathlands, and smothering all indigenous vegetation.
 - Spread by wind, water, planting and in dumped garden waste.
 - Hybridises with Silky Tea-tree to produce another weed.

Similar native species: Silky Tea-tree *Leptospermum myrsinoides* and Prickly Tea-tree *Leptospermum continentale*.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weedy facts: Coast Tea-tree is a very serious environmental weed when it establishes outside its natural range.

Weed treatment:



Flax-leaf Broom
Genista linifolia FABACEAE
Origin: Europe

Description:
Woody shrub to 3m forming dense stands. The ribbed stems are green and softly haired when young becoming greyish-brown and woody with age.
Flowers: Yellow pea flowers in tight clusters at the end of the branches in late winter to spring.
Leaves: The leaves are formed in 3 narrow leaflets that are dark green above, and silvery grey-green and hairy below. Margins are rolled under.
Fruit: Bears seeds in downy pods. Seeds mature in late spring-early summer and the pods become grey-black.

- Notes:**
- Highly invasive, can become dominant in disturbed or degraded areas.
 - Prolific seeder forming large seed banks remaining in the ground for at least 10 years.
 - Seed is dispersed by wind and animals.

Status: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weedy facts: Reproduces by seed with pods exploding to disperse up to 3m from the parent plant.



Gorse
Ulex europaeus FABACEAE
Origin: Europe

Description:
A large shrub to 3m, easily recognised by its flowers and its many-branched stems armed with numerous spines to 50mm long.
Flowers: Bright yellow, fragrant pea flowers appear in clusters in winter and early spring.
Leaves: True leaves on seedlings have 3 leaflets, replaced by scales on mature plants.
Fruit: Flowers are followed by dark brown, oblong, hairy seed pods, 10-20mm long. Pods explode to release seeds.

- Notes:**
- Gorse forms dense thickets that harbour vermin and exclude growth of indigenous plants.
 - Seeding is prolific and the seeds have a hard, water-resistant coating.
 - Seeds remain dormant in the soil for up to 30 years.
 - Seeds are dispersed by birds, animals, ants, water, vehicles, machinery, gravel, dumped garden waste and contaminated soil.

Similar native species: Prickly Acacia *Acacia paradoxa*.
Status: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weedy facts: Gorse is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. It is a major agricultural weed in Tasmania and parts of Victoria and is becoming an environmental threat in national parks and other bushland areas.



Honey-myrtle – Mauve
Melaleuca nesophila MYRTACEAE
Origin: Western Australia

Description:
A bushy, fast-growing large shrub or small tree to 4m high.
Flowers: Pinkish-mauve terminal rounded flower heads tipped with gold appear during late spring and summer months.
Leaves: Deep green, shaped like a flattened circle. Young leaves are a much lighter green.
Fruit: Small, tightly-packed, chunky capsules that are persistent on the plant.

- Notes:**
- Mauve Honey-myrtle is one of the most widely cultivated Melaleuca species.
 - Spreads easily from gardens into bushland reserves, displacing the indigenous vegetation.
 - Seed is dispersed by wind and water.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Honey-myrtle – Red
Melaleuca hypericifolia MYRTACEAE
Origin: Queensland and NSW

Description:
A spreading, loosely-branched shrub to about 2m high with drooping branches.
Flowers: Large, rusty red, bottlebrush-like flowers are concealed amongst the foliage in late spring and summer.
Leaves: Lance-shaped up to 40mm long. Sometimes turn red or have bronze tips in winter.
Fruit: Cylindrically-arranged seed capsules that are persistent on the plant, contain numerous fine seeds.

- Notes:**
- Serious problem plant, spreading easily from gardens into bushland reserves and displacing indigenous vegetation.
 - Seed is dispersed by wind and water.
 - Often forms dense thickets of new plants.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Kohuhu
Pittosporum tenuifolium PITTOSPORACEAE
Origin: New Zealand

Description:
Densely foliated, evergreen tree or shrub to 8m high.
Flowers: Perfumed reddish-purple flowers appearing in clusters in spring.
Leaves: Shiny and oval-shaped with wavy margins and a prominent mid-vein. They are arranged in whorls.
Fruit: Kohuhu has small grey-black capsules.

- Notes:**
- The cultivar "James Stirling" is commonly used as a fast growing hedge but has leaves much smaller than typical.
 - Spreads quickly to bushland reserves, forming a dense canopy and excluding light to understorey plants.
 - High drought tolerance in shade – seedlings establish easily beneath canopy.
 - Particularly invasive in damp gullies.
 - The sticky seeds are eaten and dispersed to new areas by birds, especially currawongs, silvereyes and blackbirds.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



This brochure identifies the top 20 weeds for the Surf Coast townships of Lorne (inc Big Hill), Deans Marsh and Bambra.

Weeds are a threat to our natural environment. Guarding against this threat requires Council, State and Federal Government, local landholders and community volunteers to invest significant time, effort and resources in controlling and eradicating weeds.

As a Surf Coast resident, you also have a key role to play, starting with the plants you choose for your garden and working to remove – or at least manage – any weeds that have taken root there. This brochure aims to help you fulfil this role by describing the 20 most common weeds in your area and identifying appropriate treatment methods for each.

For more information about each treatment method, refer to the information sheet *Treating Weeds in Your Surf Coast Garden: Your guide to chemical and non-chemical methods*. A companion booklet, *Weeds of the Surf Coast Shire*, provides a more comprehensive guide to local weeds. Go to <http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au> to access these publications.

- The weed threat and you**
- Each of the weeds described in this brochure represents either an existing or potential threat to the Surf Coast's environmental values. For example:
- Agapanthus, Arum Lily, Gazania and Freesia are renowned for escaping from local gardens and quickly taking over natural areas, much to the detriment of our native flora and fauna.
 - Sallow Wattle and Coast Tea-tree are highly flammable, which substantially increases fuel loads around homes and surrounding areas, adding to the bushfire risk.
 - Sweet Pittosporum and Bluebell Creeper attract birds which disperse their seeds into reserves and bushland. The ensuing plants can out-compete local plant species, causing their extinction and reducing wildlife habitat.
 - Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass can quickly invade agricultural areas and threaten their productive capacity.

- You can help by:**
- Choosing your garden plants wisely and selecting local indigenous plants where possible. Note: this is particularly important if you live within 500 metres of a natural area.
 - Removing identified weed species from your garden and replacing them with local indigenous plants.
 - Familiarising yourself with your fire risk and removing those woody weed species which increase the fuel load and fire intensity around your home. (Refer to Landscaping your Surf Coast Garden for Bushfire, which is available at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au).
 - Depositing your garden waste in your green-lidded Council bin or at your landfill.
 - Entering and leaving natural areas with caution. Check your shoes and clothes for seeds and ensure you enter clean and exit clean.
 - Joining a local conservation group and volunteering to protect the natural areas that you know and love.

Top 20 Weeds

Lorne (inc Big Hill),
Deans Marsh, Bambra



See also Weeds of the Surf Coast Shire
which is available online at
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Trees & Shrubs



Mirror-Bush
Coprosma repens RUBIACEAE
Origin: New Zealand

Description:
A large shrub or small tree to 5m high.
Flowers: Small creamy-white clusters of flowers are present during summer months.
Leaves: Glossy, deep green, rounded leaves, slightly notched at the tip and almost fleshy, are a familiar characteristic of this plant.
Fruit: Flowers are followed by orange-red berries.

- Notes:**
- A vigorous, salt-tolerant species that thrives in coastal areas where it has often been planted as a hedge or windbreak.
 - Spreads along roadsides and into reserves where it tends to grow in dense clumps, eliminating indigenous species.
 - Birds, particularly blackbirds, feed on the berries and spread the seed to new areas.
 - In coastal dunes, the species can become almost prostrate and new plants will form where branches touch the ground.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Sallow Wattle
Acacia longifolia subsp. longifolia MIMOSACEAE
Origin: Eastern Victoria and NSW

Description:
Sallow Wattle forms large dense shrubs or trees to 10 m high and 15m wide.
Flowers: Yellow flower spikes in late winter and spring.
Leaves: The phyllodes (leaves) are flat, thin, and pliable - up to 200mm long
Fruit: A pod with seeds. Pods are leathery, stiff and tough.

- Notes:**
- Sallow Wattle is one of the worst environmental weeds in the area.
 - Sallow Wattle fills a naturally occurring void in local ecological vegetation communities. This species occupies "middle-storey" space. This influences fire behaviour by creating a ladder of vegetation, allowing the fire to move through the landscape.
 - Sallow Wattle is a nitrogen fixer, altering the nutrient balance of the soil and affecting regeneration of indigenous vegetation.
 - Seed is spread by birds.

Similar native species: Coast Wattle *Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae* is native to coastal eastern Australia. In Surf Coast Shire, Coast Wattle is a medium spreading shrub to 5m high and is restricted to the dune system. The leaves are oval to rounded, thick and fleshy.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.
Weedy facts: Hybrids (cross of species) between the indigenous Coast Wattle *Acacia longifolia subsp. sophorae* and Sallow Wattle are also very common environmental weeds in the area. These hybrids can take on many different forms and invade heathland and woodland environments.

Weed treatment:



Sweet Pittosporum
Pittosporum undulatum PITTOSPORACEAE
Origin: East Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland

Description:
Densely foliated evergreen tree or shrub to 14m high.
Flowers: Perfumed creamy-white flowers appearing in clusters in spring.
Leaves: Shiny and oval-shaped with wavy margins and a prominent mid-vein. They are arranged in whorls.
Fruit: Flowers of Sweet Pittosporum are followed by large berries that turn orange when ripe.

- Notes:**
- Spreads quickly to bushland reserves forming a dense canopy, excluding light to understorey plants.
 - High drought tolerance in shade – seedlings establish easily beneath canopy.
 - Particularly invasive in damp gullies.
 - The sticky seeds are eaten and dispersed to new areas by birds, especially currawongs, silvereyes and blackbirds.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weedy facts: *Pittosporum undulatum* hybridises with indigenous *Banyalla Pittosporum bicolor*, producing a hybrid weed.

Weed treatment:



Herbs & Succulents



Agapanthus (African Lily)
Agapanthus praecox ssp. orientalis LILIACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:
Evergreen perennial herb growing in a leafy clump to 1m wide from a thick rhizome.
Flowers: Large blue or white flower heads on smooth, long, thick stems to about 1.2m high in summer.
Leaves: Glossy green, strap-shaped leaves form clumps up to 600mm high.
Fruit: Seed capsules release abundant glossy black winged seeds in late summer and autumn.

- Notes:**
- Commonly naturalises in a variety of coastal and inland situations where plants can often be seen growing along roadsides.
 - Reproduction is by seed or dumped garden refuse.
 - Seeds are wind and water dispersed, sometimes for many metres along drainage lines.

Similar native species: Black-anther Flax-lily *Dianella revoluta*.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Arum Lily
Zantedeschia aethiopica ARACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:
Perennial herb with large, starchy, tuber-like underground rhizome.
Flowers: The small, yellow male and female flowers arranged in the central column are surrounded by a large white spathe on an erect stem to 1m. Flowers mostly in spring and early summer, but often at other times.
Leaves: Large, leathery, dark green and arrow-head shaped. Clumps of juvenile leaves are often seen emerging from the underground rhizomes.
Fruit: Green or yellow berries that turn orange when ripe.

- Notes:**
- **Considered extremely poisonous to all animals, and is also toxic and can cause irritations to humans.**
 - Highly invasive in moist areas - along streams, drainage lines and in swamps or in inter-dune corridors.
 - Dispersed by birds or water and by fragmentation of rhizome.
 - Often spread by movement of contaminated soil and through dumping of garden waste.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Types of weeds

Weeds generally fall into one or more of the following three broad categories:

- Weeds of National Significance
- Declared Noxious Weeds (State Prohibited; Regionally Prohibited; Regionally Controlled; Restricted Weed)
- Environmental Weeds

weed treatment methods

This brochure identifies the recommended treatment methods for each specific weed as indicated by the icons below. More information about each method is contained in *Treating Weeds in Your Surf Coast Garden: Your guide to chemical and non-chemical methods*. Note that you should always seek professional advice in relation to using chemicals.

- Hand Removal/Pulling**
Remove the weed via hand or mechanical means
- Cut Trunk and Stems**
Saw or lop trunk and branches of weed
- Grubbing**
Use a mattock to remove the weed and its roots
- Mulch/Smother**
Place newspaper/cardboard over weeds and then mulch
- Ringbark**
Chip a 2-5cm wide ring around the trunk of the weed
- Foliar Spray**
Apply herbicide to the leaves of the weed
- Cut and Paint**
Cut weed close to ground and immediately paint herbicide on cut surface (within 10-30 seconds)
- Scrape and Paint**
Scrape bark of weed close to ground and paint with systemic herbicide
- Frilling**
Use an axe to cut "frills" in trunk of weed and apply herbicide immediately to the frill

Grasses



Pampas Grass
Cortaderia selloana POACEAE
Origin: South America

Description:
Large tussock-forming perennial to 4m high.
Flower/Seed head: Large white feathery flower heads appear on long stalks in autumn. Small seeds are produced in large quantities during winter and spring.
Leaves: Long, narrow, sharp-edged leaves grow from the base.

- Notes:**
- Commonly planted around dams and in gardens, this species forms dense, impenetrable thickets.
 - Accumulated dead plant material increases fire fuel loads especially in residential areas.
 - Individual flower heads contain huge numbers of seeds – up to 100,000 seeds per flower head.
 - Spreads very easily along roadsides and into native vegetation as the seeds are dispersed freely by the wind for up to 25 kilometres. It also reproduces by underground rhizomes.
 - The large root system on established plants can extend to 3.5m deep.
 - Pink Pampas Grass *Cortaderia jubata*, is also invasive.
 - Large plants may require mechanical removal.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Climbers and Creepers



Bluebell Creeper
Billardiera fusiformis PITTOSPORACEAE
Origin: Western Australia

Description:
A dense, tangled shrub to about 2m high, or twining climber to 3m or more. Juvenile plants do not climb, but after establishing their root system the plants quickly convert to the mature form. Young stems shiny reddish-brown.
Flowers: Nodding, deep blue bell-shaped flowers on slender stalks from spring to summer.
Leaves: Smooth dark green, narrowly oblong to lance-shaped.
Fruit: Pendant, translucent grey-green sausage-shaped berries that darken as they ripen.

- Notes:**
- One of the Surf Coast Shire's most devastating environmental weeds.
 - Large colonies, many metres wide, can be formed.
 - Thrives in a wide range of environments, including coastal heath, heathland, woodland and forest.
 - Birds disperse the seeds to new areas.

Similar native species: Common Apple-berry *Billardiera scandens*.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Bridal Creeper
Asparagus asparagoides LILIACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:
A twining, climbing perennial herb to 3m high with branching wiry stems growing from underground water-storing tubers. It has annual aerial parts.
Flowers: Solitary small white flowers with a green stripe on each folding-back petal, appear in winter to spring.
Leaves: (Cladodes) Are dense shiny with a pointed tip. As fruit ripens the leaves yellow and fall.
Fruit: Red berries in spring and summer.

- Notes:**
- Recognised as one of the worst environmental weeds in the region, invading various vegetation types and soils.
 - Forms huge masses of canopy over shrubs and trees, preventing regeneration.
 - Produces a thick mat of underground tubers that prevents penetration of moisture.
 - Dispersed by birds and also by dumping of roots as garden waste.

Similar native species: Apple-berry *Billardiera mutabilis*, Small-leaved Clematis *Clematis microphylla* and Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia australis*.

Status: Weed of National Significance, Restricted Weed.

Weed treatment:



English Ivy
Hedera helix ARALIACEAE
Origin: Europe

Description:
A large woody climber attaching to trees, rocks and other surfaces by numerous fine stem roots. Horizontal stems root at the nodes when they contact the soil. This perennial evergreen grows to a height of 30m or more.
Flowers: Has small, yellowish-green flowers, star-shaped and usually in spherical clusters, in autumn.
Leaves: Glossy dark green on the upper surface, and often variegated. Veins are very conspicuous. Leaves on non-flowering stems are lobed, those on fertile flowering stems are unlobed.
Fruit: Small, black berries in winter.

- Notes:**
- Ivy is highly shade tolerant and forms a dense impenetrable ground cover.
 - Climbs and smothers shrubs and trees.
 - May occur in a variety of locations and is most seriously invasive in forests where it grows high into the canopy.
 - Birds eat the berries and disperse the seeds.

Similar native species: Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia australis*.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:



Herbs & Succulents



Ragwort
Senecio jacobaea ASTERACEAE
Origin: Europe

Description:
An erect biennial or short-lived perennial herb up to 1m tall.
Flowers: Bright yellow flower-heads usually appear in large clusters at the end of branches in late spring and summer.
Leaves: The young plant develops as a rosette of leaves. Stem leaves are deeply cut and wrinkled, dark to mid-green on upper surface, lighter and slightly downy underneath.
Fruit: Pale brown with a tuft of slender white hairs.

- Notes:**
- A pasture weed capable of invading roadsides, disturbed sites and bushland reserves.
 - A prolific seeder – the seed can remain viable in the ground for many years.
 - Seed is spread by wind and water, and also by animals and vehicles.
 - Reproduces from crowns, roots and seeds.
 - Is poisonous to most types of livestock.

Similar native species: Similar to many indigenous Senecio species, such as Fireweed *Senecio linearifolius*.

Status: Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weedy facts: One large plant can produce over 250,000 seeds per year.

Weed treatment:



Weeds and fire

Weeds, particularly those with woody stems and branches, can significantly increase bushfire risk by adding to fuel loads around your home and contributing to a fire's intensity.

Some possess certain characteristics (e.g. leaf oils, fine foliage, dense growth) that add to their flammability while others, particularly vines and creepers, can also act as 'ladder fuels', carrying fire from the ground up into the canopy or on to a structure.

Most weeds produce huge numbers of seeds throughout their lifetimes, many of which have growth cycles that are stimulated by fire. This can result in a massive weed response in the aftermath of a bushfire.

Weeds that increase fuel loads or contribute to a fire's intensity are identified in this brochure by a fire icon.



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