

Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus spp. *aggregrate* 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:



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.

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.

Weed treatment:

This brochure identifies the top 20 weeds for the Surf Coast townships of Jan Juc, Torquay, Bellbrae and Connewarre.

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 local 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.



Golden Wreath Wattle

Acacia saligna FABACEAE
Origin: Western Australia

Description:
Shrub or tree 2-6m high.
Flowers: Orange-yellow flower heads in spike-like clusters, spring flowering.
Leaves: Flattened stalks, often drooping, usually linear but can be variable in size and shape.
Fruit: Linear pods with thickened margins.

Notes:
- Plants live for 10-20 years.
- 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.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weedy facts: Saligna refers to the willow-like weeping habit of the tree. Golden Wreath Wattle refers to the sprays of golden flowers.

Weed treatment:



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.

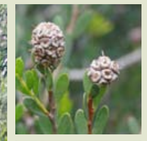
Notes:
- Gorse forms dense thickets that harbour vermin and exclude growth of indigenous plants.
- Seeding is prolific and the seeds have a hard, water-resistant coating.
- Seeds remain dormant in the soil for up to 30 years.
- Seeds are dispersed by birds, animals, ants, water, vehicles, machinery,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

Weed treatment:


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

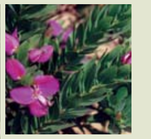
Melaleuca hypericifolia MYRTACEAE
Origin: Queensland and NSW

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:


Myrtle-leaf Milkwort

Polygala myrtifolia var. *myrtifolia* POLYGALACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:
An erect to spreading shrub to about 2m high.
Flowers: Clusters of pinkish-purple pea flowers on the ends of leafy branches all year round, although mainly in late winter to spring.
Leaves: Light green, broadly oval, tips rounded, to 40mm long.
Fruit: A flattened capsule to 10mm long, heart-shaped with a marginal wing, ripening from green to brown.

Notes:
- A very serious environmental weed.
- Forms large thickets, covering extensive areas and therefore excluding all indigenous vegetation.
- Seed remains viable in the soil for at least three years and germinates readily in both shade and full sun, forming dense carpets under adult plants.
- Dispersed by water, ants, birds and the dumping of garden waste.
- *Polygala myrtifolia var. grandiflora* is also a weed in the district with larger flowers and the leaves are longer, tapering and a darker green.

Similar native species: Seedlings of Coast Beard-heath *Leucopogon parviflorus*.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weedy facts: A salt-tolerant species that thrives in Australian conditions, especially in the coastal, sandy soils where it builds up a large seed bank.

Weed treatment:

Surf COAST SHIRE

Top 20 Weeds

Jan Juc, Torquay, Bellbrae, Connewarre

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

Trees & Shrubs



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:

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.

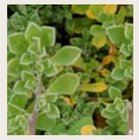
Notes:

- 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:


Galenia

Galenia pubescens AIZOACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:

A perennial greyish mat-forming plant, up to 300 mm high and spreading 1.6m or more across, with thick, woody stems.
Flowers: Small white or pink inconspicuous fragrant flowers appear from spring to summer. They are hairy on the outside.
Leaves: Semi-succulent, oval to spoon-shaped, hairy and flat with a slightly re-curved tip.
Fruit: Pentagonal cup-shaped capsules contain shiny black seeds to 1mm in length.

Notes:

- Galenia or Blanket Leaf is often found on disturbed sites, wasteland and roadsides.
- Forms dense mats of foliage and stems displacing native grasses and other understorey species.
- Disrupts light and prevents moisture getting to other species, and forms a monoculture.

Similar native species: Nodding Saltbush *Einadia nutans*.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weedy facts: Said to threaten the honey industry as bees utilise it but the honey becomes tainted.

Weed treatment:



Gazania

Gazania linearis ASTERACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:

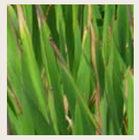
A perennial low-growing, clump-forming trailing herb growing from rhizomes.
Flowers: Large daisy-type flowers of varying shades of orange and yellow, often with shades of brown, appear over long periods of the year. Other forms in varying colours are also available.
Leaves: Clumps of greenish-grey, lance-shaped leaves, white hairs below.
Fruit: A tiny 'seed' (achene) covered in very long hairs several times the length of the fruit body. Achenes are produced in abundance and blown by the wind, thus allowing the plant to spread rapidly.

Notes:

- Tends to smother all indigenous vegetation as it grows in clump size.
- Has spread along roadsides, into reserves and on to the coastal dunes.
- Also spreads by seed and by pieces of root often as a result of road maintenance machinery or dumped garden waste.

Status: Environmental weed in Surf Coast Shire.

Weed treatment:


Wild Watsonia

Watsonia meriana 'Bulbillifera' IRIDACEAE
Origin: South Africa

Description:

A perennial, summer-dormant herb to 1m high with large underground corms and small stem bulbils.
Flowers: Salmon pink to orange-red trumpet-shaped, curved flowers to 70mm long appear in summer in flower spikes. The flower stalk is unbranched and bears 10-15 flowers.
Leaves: Basal leaves are sword-shaped and grow 500-800mm in length. They are rigid and strap-like. Stem leaves are much smaller and sheath-like.
Fruit: Seed capsules are rarely produced, but bulbils 6-7mm in diameter are produced in clusters on the lower part of the spike.

Notes:

- A very serious environmental weed capable of spreading rapidly by bulbils - particularly along roadsides and drainage lines.
- 1-3 new corms are formed above and beside the old corm each year.

Status: Regionally Controlled Weed.

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


Chilean Needle-grass

Nassella neesiana POACEAE
Origin: South America

Description:

A tussock-forming perennial grass, up to 1.2m high.
Flower/Seed head: Loose, open, drooping panicle at the end of the flowering stems. The bracts holding the flowers are purple, giving the whole plant a distinctive purplish colour. Flowers and sets seed during spring and early summer. Seeds: pale brown and sharply pointed. Between the seed and its tail (awn) there is a characteristic raised ring (corona) 1-1.5mm long with small teeth encircling the awn. Cleistogenes (hidden seeds) are also produced at the stem nodes (elbows) and base of the plant beneath the leaf sheath.
Leaves: Narrow, coarse leaves 5mm wide and 300mm long, with distinct ribs running from base to tip and slightly serrated edges. At the base of each leaf is a 3mm long smooth membranous ligule with two small tufts of erect hairs.

Notes:

- As a vigorous competitor, it is a major threat to both conservation and agricultural lands.
- Capable of producing up to 22,000 seeds per square metre with a long-lived seed bank.
- The "needle-sharp" seeds can cause physical harm to both animals and humans.
- Seeds with their long corkscrew-like awns and sharp tip are easily spread by wind, machinery, vehicles, animals, clothing and footwear.
- The stem seeds enable the plant to reproduce even if flowering is prevented by slashing or grazing.

Similar native species: Similar to several native Australian Spear grasses *Austrostipa sp.* The seeds of native *Austrostipa sp.* appear similar except that they don't have the corona.

Status: Weed of National Significance, Restricted Weed.

Weedy facts: Thought to have entered Australia from South America as a contaminant of wool or fodder. Trials have shown that Chilean Needle-grass can out-compete Serrated Tussock.

Weed treatment:



Serrated Tussock

Nassella trichotoma POACEAE
Origin: South America

Description:

A fine-leafed perennial tussock-forming grass to about 600mm high.
Flower/Seed head: The multi-branched seed head is up to 350mm long and at each junction there are two or three branches with a single seed on each branch. It has a weeping appearance when in full flower and changes in colour as it matures from purple through to gold. Spring flowering. Seed: Hard and small with a ring of white hairs at one end and a twisted tail (awn) 25mm long at the other end. The awn is attached off-centre to the seed.
Leaves: Blades are thin, up to 500mm in length, and tightly-rolled with small serrations which can be felt when running the leaf between the fingers from the tip to the base.

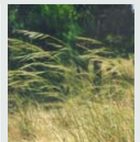
Notes:

- A major agricultural weed in the region that has also invaded native grasslands, pastures, grassy woodlands, roadsides and riparian areas.
- Large, vigorous plants can produce 100,000 seeds annually. Seed remains viable in the soil for 10-15 years.
- Seeds are easily spread by wind, machinery and vehicles, and by slashing, and also by adhering to animals, clothing and footwear.
- Ripe seed heads break off and disperse on winds for several kilometres.

Similar native species: Can be mistaken for native Tussock Grasses *Poa sp.*, and Wallaby Grasses *Austrodanthonia sp.*

Status: Weed of National Significance, Regionally Controlled Weed.

Weed treatment:


Texas Needle-grass

Nassella leucotricha POACEAE
Origin: Southern Nth America

Description:

A perennial tussock-forming grass up to 1-1.5m high.
Flower/Seed head: The seed head is up to 250mm long on erect and unbranched stems which are mostly hairless. Flowers and sets seed during spring and early summer. Seed: changes from pale brown to purple at maturity. Between the seed and its tail (awn) there is a characteristic raised ring (corona) with long thin hairs. The awn is 35-60mm long, bent twice with 10-20mm to first bend. Cleistogenes (hidden stem seeds) may be present.
Leaves: The blades are mid to dark green, flat or slightly in-rolled, 5mm wide and 300mm long.

Notes:

- Also known as Texas Wintergrass in its native Texas.
- The sharp seeds can cause physical harm to animals and humans.
- Seeds are easily spread by machinery, vehicles, animals, clothing and footwear and also by wind and water.
- Highly invasive and capable of forming dense infestations, affecting pastures, native grasslands and woodlands.
- Similar to Chilean Needle-grass, Texas Needle-grass can be distinguished by the long thin hairs on the corona (Chilean has short tooth-like hairs)

Similar native species: Similar to several native species of Spear grass *Austrostipa sp.* but distinguishable by a distinct collar or ring around the top of the mature seed. The seeds of native Spear grasses appear similar except they don't have the corona.

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:

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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