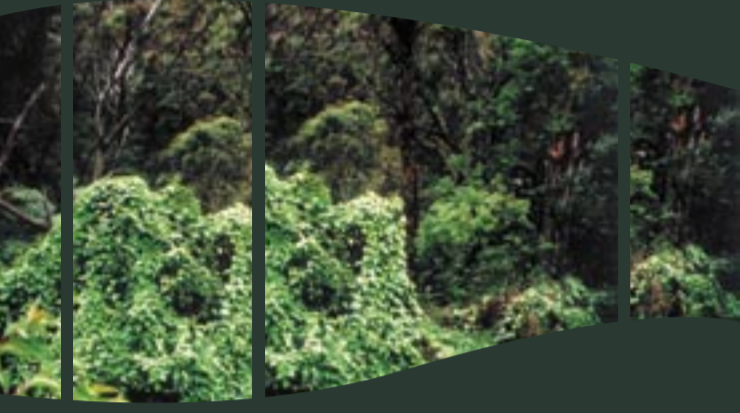


# NOXIOUS WEEDS OF THE SYDNEY NORTH REGION

stop  
the  
SPREAD



Noxious Weeds are Spoiling our Environment

sydneyweeds.org.au

## SYDNEY NORTH REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

- City of Ryde .....9952 8222
- Dept of Defence.....9377 2203
- Dept of Environment and Conservation  
– National Parks and Wildlife Service  
- Sydney North Region.....9472 8953  
- Sydney Harbour North.....9960 6266
- Dept of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural  
Resources .....9895 6211
- Dept of Primary Industries.....4588 2161
- Hornsby Shire Council.....9847 6976
- Hunters Hill Council .....9879 9400
- Ku-ring-gai Council.....9424 0888
- Lane Cove Council .....9911 3555
- Manly Council .....9976 1500
- Mosman Council.....9978 4000
- North Sydney Council.....9936 8100
- Pittwater Council.....9970 1111
- Rail Corp .....9847 8917
- Roads and Traffic Authority .....131 700
- Cumberland State Forest.....9871 3377
- Sydney Water.....132 092
- Upper Parramatta River Catchment  
Trust .....9891 4633
- Warringah Shire Council .....9942 2111
- Willoughby City Council.....9777 1000

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### TREES AND SHRUBS



PRIVET - BROAD LEAF

**Botanical Name:** *Ligustrum lucidum*  
Very common tree, 4 to 10 m found in moist, nutrient rich sites such as gullies and home gardens. Large dark green leaves arranged opposite on the stem, paler underside. Native to China.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Small, white, strongly scented flowers in summer. Sprays of purple-black berries occurring in winter.  
**Dispersal:** Birds and water.  
**Declared Noxious:** W4b  
**Special Note:** May be confused with the native Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*). The Lilly Pilly has oil glands in its leaves.



PRIVET - SMALL LEAF

**Botanical Name:** *Ligustrum sinense*  
Common tall multi-stemmed shrub to 3m high found in moist, nutrient rich areas. Leaves narrow, opposite often with wavy margins. Native to China.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Small, white strongly scented flowers in spring. Dark purple-black berries occurring in winter.  
**Dispersal:** Birds and water.  
**Declared Noxious:** W4b  
**Special Note:** May be confused with the native myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) and *Breyenia oblongifolia*. The native myrtle has oil glands in its leaves.



GREEN CESTRUM

**Botanical Name:** *Cestrum parqui*  
Straggly woody shrub 2-3m tall with light green alternate leaves to 12cm long, giving off an unpleasant smell when crushed. Imported as an ornamental, it has become a weed in gardens, bushland and along waterways. Native to South America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Sprays of small tubular yellow-green flowers on end of stems from late spring to autumn. Shiny black egg shaped berries in clusters.  
**Dispersal:** Birds and water.  
**Declared Noxious:** W2  
**Special Note:** Highly poisonous to livestock, particularly cattle, and can be toxic to humans.



LANTANA

**Botanical Name:** *Lantana camara*  
Weed of National Significance  
Fast growing shrub with brittle climbing and scrambling branches, square stems with short prickles and opposite hairy leaves with distinctive smell. Native to South America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Small clusters of red, pink or yellow flowers all year. Black berries, fruiting most heavily in summer.  
**Dispersal:** Birds, dumping, branches re-rooting at ground level.  
**Declared Noxious:** W2  
**Special Note:** Large stands have sometimes been found to provide habitat for native animals. May be confused with Native Peach (*Trema aspera*).



BITOU BUSH / BONESEED

**Botanical Name:** *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*  
Shrub to 2m. There are two forms: a thickset forming coastal dune variety with rounded leaves (subspecies rotundata). An erect, upright plant with coarsely toothed leaves (subspecies monilifera). Native to South Africa.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Golden yellow, daisy flowers appearing mostly in spring to early summer. The fruit is a purplish black berry occurring in clusters and ripening in summer, 6 to 8mm.  
**Dispersal:** Birds  
**Declared Noxious:** W2



CAPE BROOM

**Botanical Name:** *Genista monspessulana*  
Erect woody evergreen shrub to 3m high with one main stem and numerous branches. Leaves are bluish green & grouped in threes. Common along forest margins and disturbed sites. Native to the Mediterranean region.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Bright yellow, pea-like flowers in late winter. Brown/black flat silky pods containing 5 to 8 seeds in spring.  
**Dispersal:** Spread by machinery and also spread locally when pods burst open on hot days.  
**Declared Noxious:** W4b (except in Pittwater)



OCHNA, MICKEY MOUSE PLANT

**Botanical Name:** *Ochna serrulata*  
Hardy shrub to 2m high grown commonly as garden hedge. Shiny, fine toothed and wavy leaves. Removal is made difficult due to the extended taproot. Native to South Africa.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Yellow flowers in spring. Crown of black berries surrounded by red "petals" occurring in autumn.  
**Dispersal:** Birds and dumping of clippings.  
**Declared Noxious:** W4b (except in Hunters Hill)



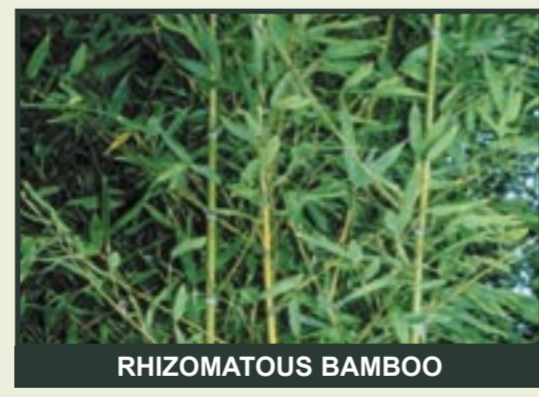
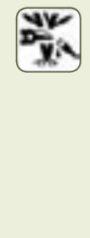
CASTOR OIL PLANT

**Botanical Name:** *Ricinus communis*  
Tall shrub to 3m high common in waste areas. The stems are red tinged and the leaves are large and lobed, with suppressed veins. The sap is white. Native to Africa.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Reddish green, flowers in summer. Green to black spiny fruit capsule occurring in autumn.  
**Dispersal:** Seed explosion from capsule, water.  
**Declared Noxious:** W2 (except in City of Ryde)  
**Special Note:** Seeds are highly toxic to humans and animals.



PAMPAS GRASS

**Botanical Name:** *Cortaderia selloana*  
Large long-lived perennial tussock over 2m high with numerous fluffy seedheads (up to 3m high) and sharp, cutting leaves. Native to South America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White, pale pink or pale mauve flowers in summer. Each plume produces up to 100,000 seeds in late summer/autumn.  
**Dispersal:** Seeds are 2mm long allowing travel of up to 40km on wind currents. Also dispersed in waterways.  
**Declared Noxious:** W2  
**Special Note:** Smaller clumps can be dug out. Bushfire Hazard, especially in areas of dense infestation. Leaves are highly flammable when dry. Sharp leaf edges contain silica. Is often habitat for snakes and feral pests.



RHIZOMATOUS BAMBOO

**Botanical Name:** *Phyllostachys spp.*  
Woody plant to 6m high with underground runners (rhizomes). Cultivated as ornamentals, they may become weeds in gardens, bushland and wasteland. Native to Asia. All species have a groove on alternating sides of stems.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Rarely appear (at intervals of over 100 years).  
**Dispersal:** Produces erect shoots from rhizomes forming loosely clumped shoots over large areas, dumping.  
**Noxious Weed:** W4a



RHUS

**Botanical Name:** *Toxicodendron succedaneum*  
A shrub/small deciduous tree to 4m. Distinguished by compound leaves with 7 to 10 leaflets and a terminal leaflet, turning brilliant red in autumn. Native to China, Japan and Himalayas.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Very small, creamy white, flowers in spring. Clusters of pale brown berries (5 to 7mm) turning papery on ripening between May and September.  
**Dispersal:** Birds  
**Declared Noxious:** W2  
**Special Note:** This plant can cause severe dermatitis and swelling of the face if any part of the plant makes skin contact (the sap causing the most severe reaction).



LUDWIGIA, WATER PRIMROSE

**Botanical Name:** *Ludwigia peruviana*  
Fast growing terrestrial or partially submerged shrub to 4m tall, usually confined to freshwater creek lines, banks and wetlands. It is vigorously opportunistic, clogging waterways and dominating over all other water and creek bank plants. Native to Central and South America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Bright yellow, solitary flowers with 4-5 petals in early autumn. Herbaceous, erect capsules containing around 3200 sticky and pepper-like seeds.  
**Dispersal:** Seed explosion from capsule into water and spread by birds and human activity.  
**Declared Noxious:** W2



### AQUATICS



ALLIGATOR WEED

**Botanical Name:** *Alternanthera philoxeroides*  
Terrestrial or aquatic (floating or rooted emergent) perennial herb found in slow moving and stationary waters forming large mats of interwoven roots and stems. Native to South America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Silvery white flowers in January to March. Seeds produced but rarely viable under Australian conditions. Reproduction is entirely vegetative.  
**Dispersal:** As new hollow stems are produced, old stems lose their leaves and become prostrate, thickening the underlying mat of this vigorous creeper. Can seriously impair water flow. Dispersed by water flow, dumping and machinery.  
**Declared Noxious:** W1  
If you find this weed, notify your local council immediately.  
**Special Note:** Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal. The fleshy tap roots are brittle and hard to control by spraying with existing herbicides. May be confused with the native Lesser joyweed (*Alternanthera denticulata*).



SALVINIA

**Botanical Name:** *Salvinia molesta*  
Rapidly growing free floating, mat forming aquatic fern capable of totally covering still or slowly moving waterways. Its presence significantly reduces waterway values. Native to South America.  
**Flowers/ Fruit/Seed:** Does not produce flowers or fruit.  
**Dispersal:** Reproduces vegetatively and is spread by aquatic plant suppliers, home ponds, dumping, animals, water movement, wind, boats and flooding.  
**Declared Noxious:** W1  
If you find this weed, notify your local council immediately.  
**Special Note:** Contact your local council for advice on control and correct disposal.

### Sydney North REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

The Committee is made up of land managers from local Councils and statutory authorities within the Sydney north region.

The aims of the Committee are to:

- promote the co-ordination of noxious and environmental weed management at both the regional and catchment levels;
- provide a forum for information exchange between member organisations;
- increase awareness of noxious and environmental weeds in the broader community; and
- identify new problem weeds.

## WHAT IS A WEED?

A weed is any plant out of place. A **noxious** weed is one that legally must be controlled or removed under the NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993. Weeds are declared noxious if they pose a significant problem to human health, the environment (ie. "environmental" weeds), livestock or the agriculture industry.

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

In the Sydney North region, the waterways and natural bushland are under threat due to the invasion of environmental weeds, such as those shown in this brochure. These 'introduced' plants have few predators and usually produce large quantities of seed and can out-compete or smother native plants. This makes them vigorous invaders, especially in disturbed areas and where soil nutrient levels are high, such as from stormwater pollution.

## GARDEN ESCAPES

Environmental weeds usually begin life in someone's backyard. Common garden plants can be spread by birds eating the seed or people dumping garden clippings into the bush. Once these weeds take over an area, the character of the bushland changes, reducing habitat for native wildlife and altering fire regimes.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Remove any weeds identified in this brochure using the recommended control methods as indicated. Contact your local Council for further information and for advice on spraying weeds with herbicide.
2. Never dump garden waste in bushland areas. Compost garden clippings on-site or place in Council green-waste bins for collection.
3. Replace unwanted plants with locally indigenous native species.
4. Join or start a Volunteer Bush Regeneration (Bushcare) Group.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

### Publications:

- Bradley Joan (1997) *"Bringing Back the Bush"* Lansdowne Press (2nd Reprint)
- Buchanan R.A. (1989) *"Bush Regeneration: Recovering Australian Landscapes"* TAFE, NSW
- Coastcare (1998) *"Attack of the Killer Weeds"* Dept. of Land and Water Conservation
- McLoughlin L. and Rawling J. (1991) *"Making Your Garden Bush Friendly"* McLoughlin - Rawling Publications
- National Trust of Australia (NSW) (1991) *"Bush Regeneration Handbook"*
- Parsons W.T. and Cuthbertson E.G. (1992) *"Noxious Weeds of Australia"* Inkata Press

### Websites:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds  
www.sydneyweeds.org.au  
www.weeds.org.au

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Control logos courtesy of Lismore City Council.  
Design by POD Graphics and Olive Graphic Design.

# CLIMBERS / SCRAMBLERS



TURKEY RHUBARB

**Botanical Name:** *Acetosa sagittata*

Vigorous prostrate or climbing perennial herb to 5m long with large underground connected tubers and arrow head shaped leaves. Found in damp, disturbed areas. Native to South Africa.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** 3-winged cream/pink paper-like seed structures to 1cm in summer/autumn.

**Dispersal:** Wind and water.

**Declared Noxious:** W4b



BLACKBERRY

Weed of National Significance

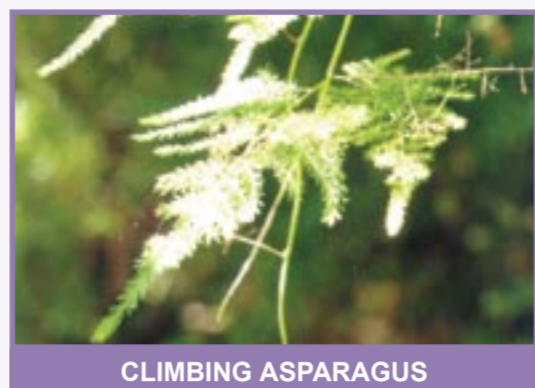
**Botanical Name:** *Rubus fruticosus (Agg spp)*

Shrub with scrambling stems generally 2 to 3m high. The arching stems are green to reddish purple and covered in prickles. The leaves have 3 to 5 leaflets, are dark green and often shed in winter. Native to Europe.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White or pink, flowers with 5 petals in spring to summer. Black, aggregated berry occurring in late summer.

**Dispersal:** Birds, foxes, re-rooting stems, dumping.

**Declared Noxious:** W2



CLIMBING ASPARAGUS

**Botanical Name:** *Asparagus plumosus*

Wiry climber with feathery fronds and spines along the thin but rigid stems. It has a woody underground rhizome and root tubers and is found in moist, shady environments. Native to South Africa.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Small greenish white flowers, 5 to 7mm. Black berry, 4 to 5mm.

**Dispersal:** Birds and dumping.

**Declared Noxious:** W4c



CAPE IVY

**Botanical Name:** *Delairea odorata*

Twining succulent climber and scrambler with bright green ivy shaped leaves. Small, kidney shaped leaf structures occur at the base of the leaves. The stems can root at the nodes when in contact with soil. Native to Africa.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Small yellow daisy-like clusters from winter to early spring. Fluffy dandelion-like fruit, 1 to 2mm long.

**Dispersal:** Wind and dumping.

**Declared Noxious:** W4b (except in Pittwater)



BALLOON VINE

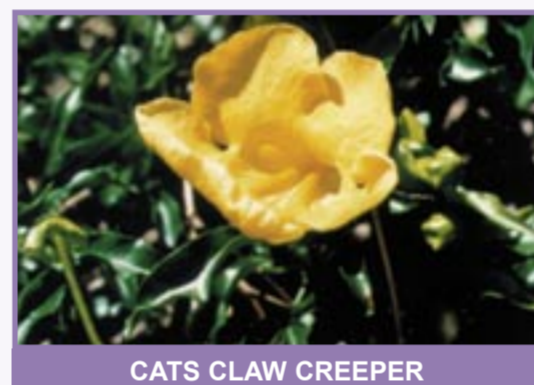
**Botanical Name:** *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*

Vigorous climber growing as high as can be supported. Has the ability to kill native plants by smothering and blocking out sunlight. Common in wet areas especially along urban creeks. Native to tropical Asia, Africa and America

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White flowers, occurring in mid-summer. Pale green balloon-like papery capsule enclosing 3 black seeds. Seeds are produced in autumn.

**Dispersal:** By wind (whilst still attached to papery capsule) and water along adjacent creeklines.

**Declared Noxious:** W4c (except for North Sydney and Pittwater)



CATS CLAW CREEPER

**Botanical Name:** *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

Vigorous, woody climber with "claws" along stems and tubers under the ground. Leaves are dark, with 2 leaflets and placed opposite on stems. It is able to grow in shady areas and invade forest canopies. Native to Argentina and Brazil.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Large, tubular yellow flowers, 4 to 8cm long. Long, thin capsule up to 45cm long containing winged seeds.

**Dispersal:** Wind and dumping.

**Declared Noxious:** W4c (except in Pittwater)



MORNING GLORY

**Botanical Name:** *Ipomoea indica*

A vigorous, twining, herbaceous perennial climber with heart-shaped leaves and hairy stems. Has the ability to smother trees and understorey vegetation. Common in moist, disturbed places. Native to Tropical Regions.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Distinct funnel-shaped violet-blue flowers 5 to 8cm in diameter occurring anytime in the year, particularly in warmer months. Does not set seed in Australia.

**Dispersal:** Dumping and growing from stem fragments, rooting at nodes.

**Declared Noxious:** W4c



MADEIRA VINE

**Botanical Name:** *Anredera cordifolia*

Fleshy, green perennial climber (up to 40m). Leaves are succulent and rounded. Located in fertile soils, disturbed sites and wastelands. Native to South America.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Greenish-cream-white "lamb's tail" sprays occurring in autumn. Reproduction is mainly vegetative by the growth of aerial tubers along succulent stems. Also has underground tubers that survive after disturbance. This weed has recently started to seed in some parts of Australia.

**Dispersal:** Aerial tubers fallen to the ground after disturbance will take root and generate new plants. Dumping.

**Declared Noxious:** W4c

# GROUND COVERS / HERBS



TRAD

**Botanical Name:** *Tradescantia fluminensis*

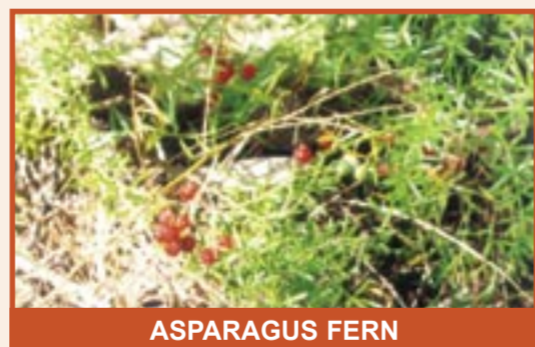
Formerly known as "Wandering Jew". A vigorously growing, succulent, spreading groundcover with alternating dark, shiny leaves and weak roots at each node. It prefers moist, nutrient rich habitats. Native to South America.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White flowers in terminal clusters appearing in spring and summer. Does not produce viable seed in Australia

**Dispersal:** Can reproduce from a leaf or stem fragment. Water and dumping.

**Noxious Weed:** W4c (except in Pittwater)

**Special Note:** This plant can be confused with the native ground cover, *Commelina cyanea*, which can be identified by its blue flowers and thick, fleshy roots.



ASPARGUS FERN

**Botanical Name:** *Asparagus densiflorus*

Multi-branched prostrate herb forming a dense mat of tuberous roots. The plant can resprout from the crown, an area just below the ground where the stems join the roots. All of the crown must be cut out and removed. Leaf-like structures on brachlets are 5 - 15mm long. Branches grow to 60cm with a covering of small spines. Native to South Africa.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White-pink clusters, flowering in late summer. Red berry, occurring winter/early spring.

**Dispersal:** Birds, dumping, rhizome growth.

**Noxious Weed:** W4c



ASTHMA WEED, PELLITORY, STICKY WEED,

**Botanical Name:** *Parietaria judaica*

Originating in Europe, Pellitory is a brittle perennial herb to 60cm high commonly found in rock crevices and walls. The stem (reddish coloured) and leaves have fine hairs allowing the plant to stick to clothing.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Very small greenish flowers all year. Dark brown-black seed enclosed in a small nut, occurring prolifically in spring and autumn.

**Dispersal:** Wind, water, local re-rooting.

**Noxious Weed:** W3

**Special Note:** Pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as rhinitis, asthma and conjunctivitis. Seek advice on removal techniques.

## CONTROL METHODS



### Hand removal

Suitable for plants which regrow from bulbs, tubers or other plant parts (such as runners). Hand pull or dig the seedlings.



### Stem scrape

Suitable for vines and some woody plants. Scrape one side of the stem to expose the growing layer. Immediately apply glyphosate-based herbicide to the scrape.



### Cut and paint

Suitable for vines without aerial tubers. Cut all stems and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.



### Cut stump

Suitable for woody plants. Cut the trunk and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.



### Frill

Suitable for trees. Make horizontal cuts around the trunk to depth of growing layer and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.

**Special Note:** Always use herbicides such as glyphosate according to the product label.

## NOXIOUS WEEDS ACT 1993

In NSW, the Minister for Primary Industries has responsibility for, and declares, noxious weeds. However, Local Control Authorities (LCAs, usually the local Council) are responsible for areas under their management and control.

An LCA can enforce penalties on land holders failing to control noxious weeds on their land.

The weeds shown here are only a selection of noxious weeds. For a comprehensive list of weeds declared noxious in your area, please contact your local Council or go to the NSW Department of Primary Industries website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

The NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993 specifies four control categories for noxious weeds, each with a particular action

### CATEGORY W1

#### Definition

A weed which is of limited distribution but poses a severe threat to agriculture, the environment or the community.

#### Action

The presence of the weed on land must be notified to the LCA and the weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

### CATEGORY W2

#### Definition

A weed which is a threat to agriculture, the environment or the community and has the potential to spread to other areas.

#### Action

The weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

### CATEGORY W3

#### Definition

As per W2 weeds but is so widespread that total suppression and destruction is impractical.

#### Action

The weed must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced.

### CATEGORY W4

#### Definition

A weed that is a threat to agriculture, the environment or the community, and has the potential to spread but requires a specific action other than those listed above.

#### Action

Each weed is given one of the following actions:

- (a) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed and any part of the weed must be prevented from growing within 3 metres of the boundary of a property;
- (b) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed and any existing weed must be prevented from flowering and fruiting;
- (c) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed and the weed must be prevented from spreading to an adjoining property;
- (d)
  - (i) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed; and
  - (ii) The weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed unless it is: listed on the state heritage register under the Heritage Act 1977; listed for preservation or protection as a heritage item under an Environmental Planning Instrument under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; listed for preservation or protection in a tree preservation order of the council for the Local Government area; included for preservation or protection in a Plan of Management for a local government area under section 40 of the Local Government Act 1993; or included for preservation or protection in a noxious weed policy or a noxious weed control program approved by the local control authority for the area for which it is the local control authority;
- (f) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. Any biological control or other control program directed by the local control authority must be implemented;
- (g) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed. Any biological control or other control program directed by the local control authority must be implemented;
- (h) The weed must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.