

# WEEDS OF SOUTH WEST SYDNEY



STOP THE SPREAD  
sydneyweeds.org.au



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  - Sydney Region ..... 9895 7420
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# WEEDS OF THE SOUTH WEST SYDNEY REGION

## 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, water.  
**Declared Noxious:** Category W4b in Camden and Campbelltown council areas.  
**Special Note:** May be confused with the native Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*). The Lilly Pilly has oil glands in its leaves.



**BITOU BUSH / BONESEED**

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



**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:** Category 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).



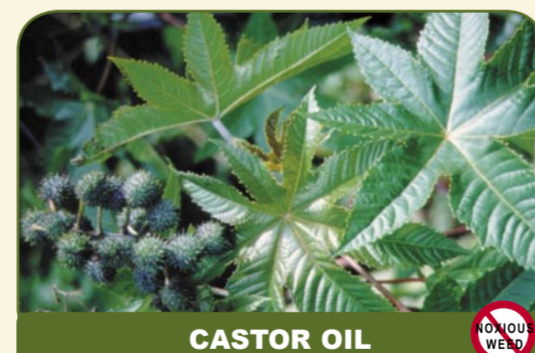
**PRIVET - SMALL LEAF**

**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, water.  
**Declared Noxious:** Category W4b in Camden and Campbelltown council areas.  
**Special Note:** May be confused with the native myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*). The native myrtle has oil glands in its leaves.



**BLACK WILLOW**

**Botanical Name:** *Salix nigra*  
 Deciduous, rapidly-growing tree to about 20m tall with one, or less often up to 4, trunks. Non-drooping habit, twigs shiny and red-brown when exposed to sun, thin leaves and deeply fissured grey bark. Native to North America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Trees either male or female. Flower spikes (catkins) appear with leaves in spring. Male catkins yellow, female catkins green.  
**Dispersal:** Seeds spread by water and new trees can sprout from broken branches. Major weed of streams and river banks and can block river flow.  
**Declared Noxious:** Category W4g.



**CASTOR OIL**

**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. 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:** Category W2 except in Camden and Wollondilly council areas.  
**Special Note:** Seeds are toxic to humans and animals.



**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:** Category W2, W3 in Campbelltown and Wollondilly council areas.  
**Special Note:** Highly poisonous to livestock, particularly cattle, and can be toxic to humans.



**AFRICAN OLIVE**

**Botanical Name:** *Olea europaea subsp. africana*  
 Small evergreen tree 2-15m high, often grown as a garden ornamental and as a hedge. Narrow, dark green lance-shaped leaves, younger leaves have tiny brown scales on the underside. Native to South Africa.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White to cream tubular flowers, flowering in spring at the junction of the leaves and the stem. Green berries in winter ripening to purple-black. Produces thousands of seeds.  
**Dispersal:** Foxes and birds.  
**Declared Noxious:** Environmental Weed.



**BLACKBERRY**

**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 are in groups of 3 to 5, are dark green and often shed in winter. Native to Europe.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** White or pink, flowers in spring to summer. Black, aggregated berry occurring in late summer.  
**Dispersal:** Birds, foxes, re-rooting stems, dumping.  
**Declared Noxious:** Category W2, W3 in Camden council area



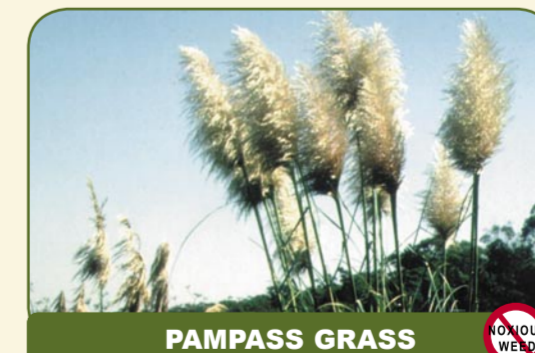
**LANTANA**

**Botanical Name:** *Lantana camara*  
 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:** Category W2 except in Camden and Wollondilly council areas. Weed of National Significance.  
**Special Note:** Large stands have been found to provide habitat for native animals.



**HONEY LOCUST**

**Botanical Name:** *Gleditsia triacanthos*  
 A long-lived fast growing deciduous tree which can quickly form dense impenetrable thickets. Large spines or thorns grow from the trunk and branches. Native to North America.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Creamy yellow hanging flower stalks to 10cm long are borne in October-November. These are followed by brown flattened seed pods to 20-40cm long.  
**Dispersal:** Seeds are readily spread by water and animals. Also suckers freely to form thickets.  
**Declared Noxious:** Environmental Weed.  
**Special Note:** Thorns capable of injuring humans and animals.



**PAMPASS 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:** Category W2.  
**Special Note:** Bushfire Hazard, especially in areas of dense infestation. Leaves are highly flammable when dry. Sharp leaf edges containing silica.



**AFRICAN BOXTHORN**

**Botanical Name:** *Lycium ferocissimum*  
 Thorny, much-branched large shrub to 5m. Native to South Africa.  
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Purplish-white flowers with darker purple blotches in centre, flowering mainly in spring and summer but sporadically throughout the year. Fleshy bright orange-red round berries.  
**Dispersal:** Birds, animals and dumping. Suckers from root fragments if mechanically disturbed.  
**Declared Noxious:** Category W2 in Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly council areas.



**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:** Category W2 except in Camden and Wollondilly council areas.



The committee is made up of land managers from local Councils and statutory authorities within the South West Sydney region. The aims of the committee are to:

- ♦ promote the co-ordination of noxious and environmental weed management at 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 weed species.

## 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 Noxious Weeds Act (1993). Weeds are declared noxious if they pose a significant problem to human health, the environment, livestock or the agriculture industry.

## ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

In the South West Sydney region, waterways and remaining areas of natural bushland are under threat due to the invasion of environmental weeds. These 'introduced' plants have few predators and usually produce vast quantities of seed, and so 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 through 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 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.
3. Compost garden clippings at home or place in Council green-waste bins for collection.
4. Replace unwanted plants with locally indigenous native species.
5. Join or start a Volunteer Bush Regeneration (Bushcare) Group. Contact your local Council for details.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

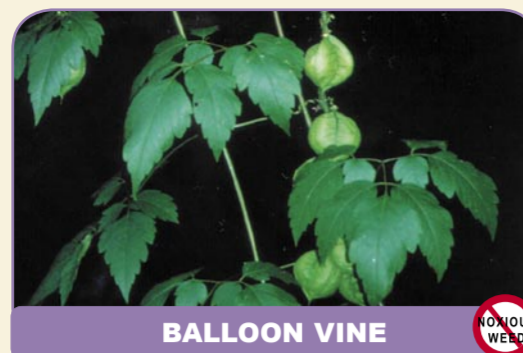
- Bradley Joan (1997) "Bringing Back the Bush" Lansdowne Press (2nd Reprint)
- Buchanan R.A. (1989) "Bush Regeneration: Recovering Australian Landscapes" TAFE, NSW
- Coastcare (1998) "Attack of the Killer Weeds" Dept. of Land and Water Conservation
- McLoughlin L. and Rawling J. (1991) "Making Your Garden 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
- Visit these websites:  
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds  
www.sydneeweeds.org.au  
www.weeds.org.au

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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# CLIMBERS / SCRAMBLERS



**BALLOON VINE**

**Botanical Name:** *Cardiospermum grandiflorum*  
Vigorous climber growing as high as can be supported. Has the ability to kill native plants by smothering, 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:** Category W4c in Campbelltown council area.



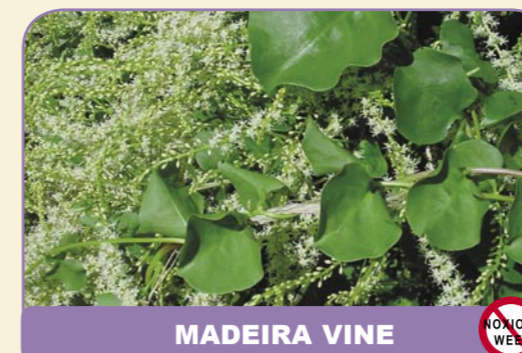
**MORNING GLORY**

**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 and gardens. Native to Tropical Regions.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Distinct 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:** Category W4c in Campbelltown council area.



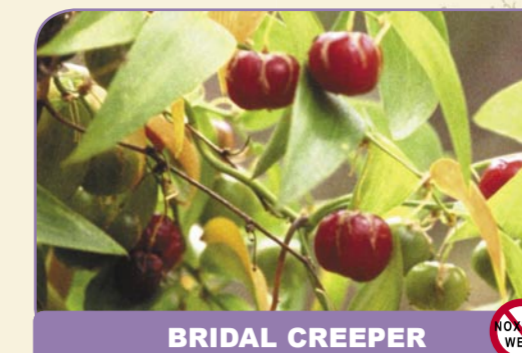
**MADEIRA VINE**

**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. No fruits are produced. Reproduction is entirely vegetative by the growth of aerial tubers along succulent stems. Also has underground tubers that survive after disturbance.

**Dispersal:** Aerial tubers fallen to the ground after disturbance will take root and sprout new leaves.

**Declared Noxious:** Category W4c in Campbelltown council area.



**BRIDAL CREEPER**

**Botanical Name:** *Asparagus asparagoides*  
Dense wood scrambler or climber up to 3m long with alternate shining green leaves, turning yellow and dying back in summer. Underground mat of branching rhizomes that bear numerous fleshy tubers. Native to Southern Africa.

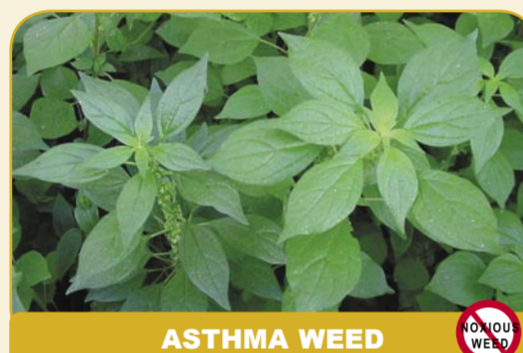
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Solitary white flowers in August-September. Each petal has a distinctive central green stripe. Green pea-sized berries, turning pink then red/ burgundy usually in November.

**Dispersal:** Birds, rabbits, foxes, water, dumping. Also rhizomes.

**Declared Noxious:** Category W4c in Campbelltown council area. Weed of National Significance.

**Special Note:** May be confused with the native species Wombat Berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*). Wombat Berry has larger non-glossy leaves and produces a larger round green berry ripening to yellow.

# GROUND COVERS / HERBS



**ASTHMA WEED**

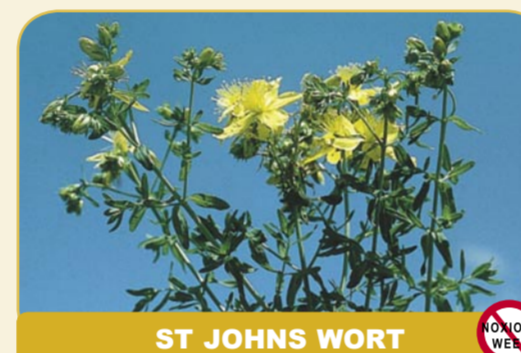
**Botanical Name:** *Parietaria judaica*  
Originating in Europe, Pellitory is a perennial herb to 60cm high commonly found in rock crevices and walls. The stem (reddish coloured) and leaves have fine hairs allowing the plant to stick to clothing.

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

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

**Declared Noxious:** Category W3 except in Camden and Wollondilly council areas.

**Special Note:** Pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as rhinitis, asthma and conjunctivitis. Always use gloves and mask when removing by hand.



**ST JOHNS WORT**

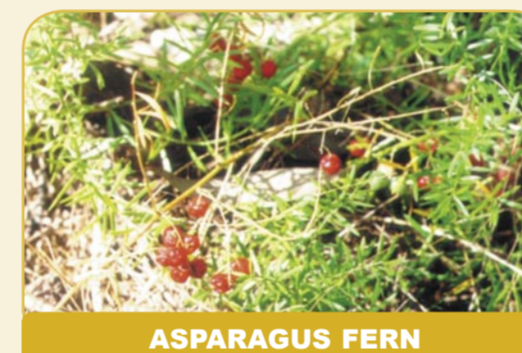
**Botanical Name:** *Hypericum perforatum*  
Erect perennial herb or small shrub to 1.2m tall with a creeping rootstock. Leaves show characteristic oil glands when viewed against light. Native to Europe.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Bright yellow flowers in clusters at branch tips, flowering in Spring and Summer. Dead brown flower stalks are clearly visible at other times. Egg-shaped capsule with many small, dark pitted seeds.

**Dispersal:** Spreads by seed, suckering, wind, animals, machinery and dumping. Readily invades unimproved overgrazed pastures.

**Declared Noxious:** Category W2.

**Special Note:** Toxins in leaves can cause photosensitivity, hypersensitivity (heat and cold stress) and infertility in grazing animals.



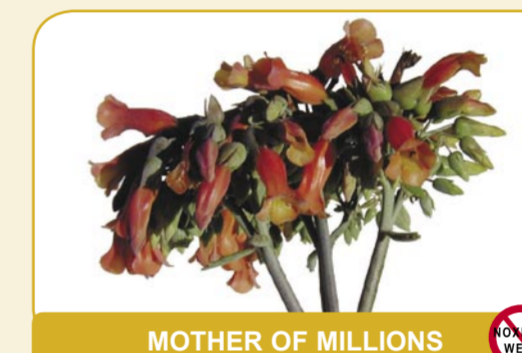
**ASPARAGUS FERN**

**Botanical Name:** *Asparagus densiflorus*  
Multi-branched prostrate herb forming a dense mat of tuberous roots. 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.

**Declared:** Environmental Weed.



**MOTHER OF MILLIONS**

**Botanical Name:** *Bryophyllum delagoense*  
Slender erect succulent perennial with pinkish-brown or greyish stems up to 60cm high with thick waxy leaves. Native to Madagascar.

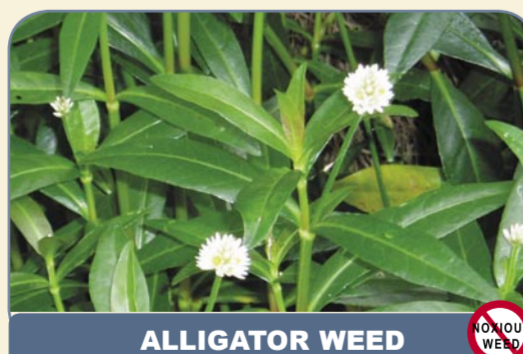
**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Tubular red to orange flowers from May to October. Form drooping clusters at the top of long stalks.

**Dispersal:** Many minute plantlets on the circumference of each leaf are able to form a new plant when the leaves break off. Forms fast spreading colonies.

**Declared Noxious:** Category W3 in Campbelltown.

**Special Note:** Highly toxic to stock.

# 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 visible under Australian conditions. Reproduction is entirely vegetative.

**Dispersal:** As new 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:** Category W1. Weed of National Significance.

**Special Note:** Contact your local council for advice on control.



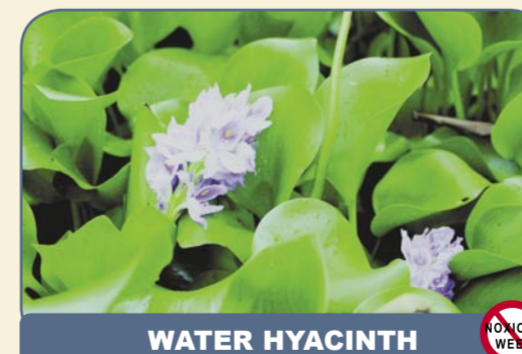
**SALVINIA**

**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:** Category W1, W2 in Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly council areas. Weed of National Significance.



**WATER HYACINTH**

**Botanical Name:** *Eichhornia crassipes*  
Free-floating aquatic perennial herb growing in shallow to deep water or mud with stems to 30-65cm tall. Bright, shiny, pale-green leaves growing on swollen bladder like stems. Native to Brazil.

**Flowers/Fruit/Seed:** Showy large mauve flowers with yellow centre, flowering January to March. Seed may lay dormant for many years, in capsules at base of flower. Also reproduces vegetatively.

**Dispersal:** Water, dumping, birds and aquatic plant suppliers.

**Declared Noxious:** Category W1, W2 in Campbelltown and Wollondilly council areas.

## CONTROL METHODS



### Hand removal

Suitable for seedlings, herbs and grasses. Hand pull or dig out weed. Remove the roots and bag any seeds, fruit, bulbs or tubers.



### Stem-scrap

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 (LCA's, usually the local Council) are responsible for areas under their control.

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

The Act specifies four control categories, 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 local control authority 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) The weed: (a) must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed; and (b) 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.