

## Environmental Weeds in Mitchell Shire

### Grasses

Angled onion*	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>
Annual veld grass	<i>Ehrharta longiflora</i>
Cocksfoot	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Quaking grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
Yorkshire Fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

### Herbs/small shrubs

Fennel*	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>
Gazania	<i>Gazania linearis</i>
Ragwort*	<i>Scenecio jacobaea</i>
St John's Wort*	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
White Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>

### Creepers/Climbers

Blackberry*	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
Blue periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Bridal Creeper*	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Cape Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>
Common Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Ipomoea indica</i>
Wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>
Himalayan Honeysuckle	<i>Leycesteria Formosa</i>

### Trees/Shrubs

Box-Thorn*	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
Cape Broom*	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>
Dessert Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>
Early Black Wattle	<i>Acacia decurrens</i>
English Broom*	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Flax Leaf Broom*	<i>Genista linifolia</i>
Hawthorn*	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Poplar	<i>Poplar spp.</i>
Sweet Briar Rose*	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>
Tree Lucerne	<i>Cytisus palmensis</i>
Willow*	<i>Salix fragilis, S. cinera and S. nigra</i>

## New and Emerging Weeds in Mitchell Shire

### Bulbs

Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>
Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Belladonna Lily	<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>
Freesia	<i>Freesia alba x Freesia leichtlinii</i>
Watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana variety bulbifera</i>

### Grasses

Blue Canary Grass	<i>Phalaris coerulescens</i>
Cane Needle Grass	<i>Nassella hyalina</i>
Chilean Needle Grass*	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
Serrated Tussock*	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
Texas Needle Grass	<i>Nassella leucotricha</i>

### Shrubs

Cape Broom*	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
Galenia	<i>Galenia pubescens</i>
Spanish Heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>
Sweet Briar Rose*	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>

### Other

Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia sp.</i>
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\* Indicates declared noxious weed under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994.

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**MITCHELL SHIRE.**  
*Environmental Weeds*

*Stop the invasion in our natural areas of Mitchell Shire*



### MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL





*Wild Watsonia (Watsonia meriana).*



*Gazania (Gazania linearis).*



*Blue Periwinkle (Vinca major).*

## Environmental Weeds

Environmental weeds are plants that invade natural areas. Sixty five percent of Australian environmental weeds are garden escapees. Weeds have major economic and environmental affects. It is estimated that weeds cost the agriculture industry alone in excess of \$4 billion dollars per year. The cost of controlling invasive plants to the environment and biodiversity is incalculable.

Invasive plants compete with the naturally occurring vegetation for light, nutrients, water and space, reducing the native vegetations ability to regenerate.

The impact of environmental weeds on ecosystems includes competition for light and nutrients, reduced biodiversity due to a monoculture of plant species, loss of food sources and shelter for native animals, insects and even the choking of river systems.

Environmental weeds can be any type of plant: annuals, perennial herbs, shrubs, vines, trees, succulents and even aquatic plants. They are able to survive and spread over a wide range of conditions.

Weeds in the garden are considered a nuisance that needs to be attended to in order to make the garden more attractive. When plants become weeds in our bushland and waterways however, they pose a much more serious problem.

An environmental weed may be one that we recognise as a common garden weed, such as White Clover or Soursob. They can also be ornamental plants introduced from overseas such as Spanish Heath, or Australian plants originating from outside the 'local area,' such as Cootamundra Wattle and the Early Black Wattle bought into Victoria from New South Wales.

Some of the plants that we grow in our gardens are able to propagate themselves by seeds, cuttings, tubers and offshoots. For example, plants such as Cape Broom and Spanish Heath self seed easily. Ivy and Wandering Jew can take root from a small piece of stem or cane.

## Keeping Garden Plants 'in the Garden'

When deciding on what plant species to include in your home garden consider using non invasive plants to lessen the potential for weed spread, especially if you live near forests, rivers and creeks. There are many non invasive alternatives to choose from. Local native plants offer habitat for native animals. Refer to the 'Local Plants for Local Gardens in the Mitchell Shire' brochure for some native plant alternatives for your garden.

Consider keeping your garden plants inside the garden by:

- Examine the invasiveness of the species, your nursery person should be able to provide information

- Choose sterile plant varieties where available, for example, there are now sterile varieties of Agapanthus
- Cut off old flower heads from invasive species before seeds or berries are produced
- Consider planting invasive/self seeding plants like herbs in pots
- Disposing of garden waste by double bagging for landfill. Mitchell Shire Transfer Stations also offers a discount rate for green waste which is then recycling into mulch (material must be weed free). Composting, Solarisation and burning are some other appropriate weed disposal techniques
- Report to the council, persons illegally dumping garden clippings in parks, along waterways, forests and vacant blocks

Avoid using plants that are known environmental weeds in your area (see back of pamphlet for some common environmental weeds). If you are not sure contact your local council or visit [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au) for further information.

Further information on environmental weeds is available from:

- Mitchell Shire Council's 'Central Victorian Weeds Guide'
- Sustainable Gardening Australia (SGA) t: 9850 5155 or [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au)
- Mitchell Shire Council's Environment Department t: 5734 6200 or [www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)