

**GARDEN  
ESCAPEES!**

# Are your garden plants going bush?

Environmental Weeds in the City of Canning

## What is a weed?

A weed is a plant that invades and thrives in environments where they do not naturally occur. Weeds can be species from overseas or Australian species growing in areas where they are not naturally found. Environmental weeds are plant species that have invaded our natural ecosystems, such as bushland and wetlands.

## What makes a weed?

Weeds can be trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses, herbs or aquatic plants. Weeds are generally:

- fast growing;
- mature early;
- produce an abundance of seed;
- readily germinate in a variety of conditions; and
- very resilient.

Some weeds can form dense stands or mats, smothering other vegetation. Others can produce toxins or chemicals to inhibit the growth of other plants.



Corms at the base of *Gladiolus*, each of these structures has the potential to become a new plant

## How do weeds spread?

Weeds have more often than not been spread by human activity. After being deliberately introduced to an area for agriculture or gardening, weeds often spread further by seeds being transported by wind, water or animals. Several serious weeds species within the City of Canning have spread into the natural bushland and wetland areas from local gardens and roadsides.

## Impacts on bushland and wetlands

Weed species have a negative impact on the natural environment. They can develop large, uniform populations that provide little support for wildlife, smother out native plants and compete with native plants for nutrients, water and space. In addition, an increase in short lived annual weeds and large woody weeds can increase the fire hazards of a bushland.

## How does the City combat weeds?

The City's Natural Areas Team works with community groups and contractors to control environmental weeds using a combination of different techniques including herbicide application, hand weeding, brush cutting, manual excavation and revegetation of weedy areas with native species.

## Why should I avoid planting and control certain species?

Certain plants should be avoided in the garden as they have a high potential to escape into the bush. Even if your property is not located next to a bushland area, seed can be spread a great distance by wind, water or birds. Controlling these species is the best way to protect your backyard and the bushlands within the City of Canning. This pamphlet shows some of the ornamental garden plants that have become significant weeds within the City of Canning, provides methods for control and recommendations for native alternatives.

## Dumping garden waste spreads weeds

It is important to dispose of weeds in a way that is unlikely to spread the weeds further. Dumping of garden waste into natural areas has a high potential to introduce weeds. Even if the waste does not include seeds, several weeds can resprout from root or plant fragments.

The City undertakes two green waste collections per year to dispose of bulk green waste and provides weekly domestic rubbish collection services. Weeds can also be composted or mulched, but be sure to treat the compost properly to avoid spreading weeds in your garden.

## How can you help?

You can help reduce the introduction of garden escapees into natural areas by:

- Selecting native plants when gardening; native species look great, attract native wildlife, reduce water use and are less likely to have a negative impact on surrounding natural areas.
- Control the weeds present on your property. This can include removal of the whole plant or removing suckers, fruits and seed heads to prevent the spread of weed species. Ensure you dispose of weed material responsibly. In the case of lawn, ensure that it is mowed regularly to prevent spread by seed.
- Joining a local friends or community group to help manage the City's natural areas.



*Arundo donax* resprouting from garden waste

## Key for using this brochure

**Declared pest** – Legislation under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* that requires landowners to eradicate or manage the weed when it grows on their land.

**WONS** – Weed of National Significance, identified by the Australia Government based on invasiveness, potential for range expansion and environmental, social and economic impacts.

### Habitat:



Bushland



Wetland

## Recommended control methods:



Hand remove



Cut and paint,  
using a  
recommended  
herbicide



Mechanical removal,  
can be mowing,  
brushing  
cutting or pruning



Herbicide spray

## Information courtesy of:

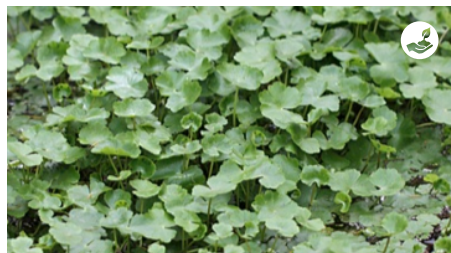
- Florabase (DPaW) [florabase.wa.gov.au](http://florabase.wa.gov.au)
- Hussey, Keighery, Dodd, Lloyd and Cousens (1997) *Western Weeds: A guide to the weeds of Western Australia*



# Are your garden plants going bush?

Environmental Weeds in the City of Canning

## Water weeds



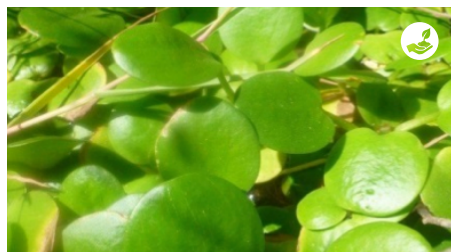
### Hydrocotyle

*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

Declared. An aquatic perennial herb with small flowers produced in summer. Spreads by stolons (a specialised type of above ground shoot that gives rise to new shoots and root) and seed.

#### Replace with:

*Centella asiatica*, *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Ottelia ovalifolia*, *Samolus repens*



### Amazon Frogbit

*Limnobiium laevigatum*

A floating aquatic plant found in slow-flowing freshwater ponds and streams. Spreads by seed and plant fragments.

#### Replace with:

*Centella asiatica*, *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Ottelia ovalifolia*, *Samolus repens*



### Salvinia

*Salvinia molesta*

WONS. Declared

A floating aquatic fern found in slow-flowing freshwater ponds and streams. Spreads by plant fragments.

#### Replace with:

*Centella asiatica*, *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Ottelia ovalifolia*, *Samolus repens*

## Herbs



### Agapanthus

*Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis*

A perennial herb with waxy leaves and purple flowers during Oct. Spreads primarily by seed, but can also spread by rhizomes (root structures).

#### Replace with:

*Orthrosanthos laxus*, *Patersonia occidentalis*, *Phlebocarya ciliata*

## Herbs



### Agave

*Agave americana*

A tree-like perennial with fleshy spine-tipped leaves up to 6m. The plant dies soon after producing yellow flowers in Jan or Apr. Spreads by seed and by suckers (a secondary shoot produced from the roots that gives rise to a new plant).

#### Replace with:

*Allocasuarina humilis*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus* or *sanguineus*, *Persoonia saccata*



### Arum Lily

*Zantedeschia aethiopica*

Declared. A perennial herb with white lily flowers produced from July to Nov. Spreads primarily by seed, but can resprout from root fragments.

#### Replace with:

*Conostephium pendulum*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Hypocalymma angustifolium*, *Phlebocarya ciliata*, *Scholtzia involucrata*.



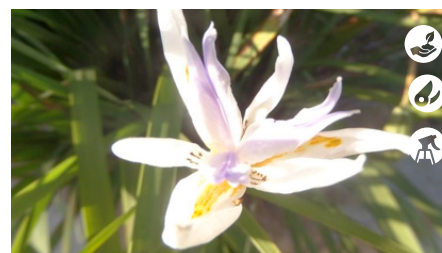
### Bulbil Watsonia

*Watsonia meriana*

A perennial herb that dies back to underground corms (food storing root structure) during summer. Produces orange-red/pink/purple/white flowers during spring to early summer. Spreads by dispersal of corms and seeds.

#### Replace with:

*Anigozanthos manglesii*, *Dianella revoluta*, *Patersonia occidentalis*



### Large Wild Iris

*Dietes grandiflora*

A perennial herb with strappy grass-like leaves to 1.2m. It produces white flowers with purple and orange markings between Oct and Mar. Spreads by seed.

#### Replace with:

*Conostylis aculeata* or *candicans*, *Orthrosanthos laxus*, *Patersonia occidentalis*.



### Freesia

*Freesia alba x leichtlinii*

A perennial herb to 0.4m with cream and white flowers produced in July to Oct. Spreads by seed and movement of corms.

#### Replace with:

*Anigozanthos humilis*, *Orthrosanthos laxus*, *Patersonia occidentalis*, *Thysanotus species*



## Grasses



### Buffalo

*Stenotaphrum secundatum*

A prostrate perennial grass forming dense colonies to 0.5m high. Spreads by seed and rhizomes (root structures).

#### Replace with:

*Amphipogon turbinatus*, *Austrostipa semibarbata*, *Neurachne alopecuroidea*.



### Couch

*Cynodon dactylon*

A prostrate perennial grass to 0.3m with green to purple flowers from Jun to Feb. Spreads by seed and rhizomes (root structures).

#### Replace with:

*Amphipogon turbinatus*, *Austrostipa semibarbata*, *Neurachne alopecuroidea*



### Kikuyu

*Cenchrus clandestinus*

A perennial grass forming large quantities up to 2m, flowers in summer. Spreads by seed and rhizomes (root structures).

#### Replace with:

*Amphipogon turbinatus*, *Austrostipa semibarbata*, *Neurachne alopecuroidea*

## Shrubs and trees



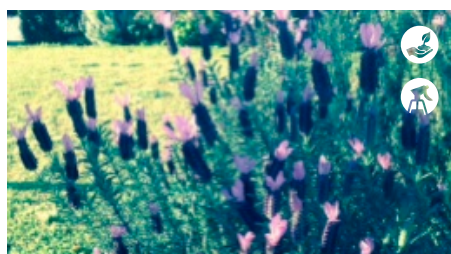
### Castor Oil

*Ricinus communis*

A woody shrub to 5 m tall with cream (male) & red (female) flowers in June to Sep. Spreads by seed, which are poisonous.

#### Replace with:

*Allocasuarina humilis*, *Calothamnus sanguineus*, *Jacksonia floribunda*, *Nuytsia floribunda*.



### Italian Lavender

*Lavandula stoechas*

A pleasant smelling shrub to 1m tall with purple flowers produced from Jul to Dec. Spreads by seed.

#### Replace with:

*Hovea pungens* or *trisperma*, *Lechenaultia biloba*, *Philotheca spicata*, *Regelia ciliata*, *Verticordia densiflora*

## Shrubs and trees



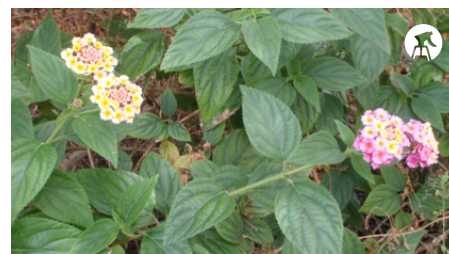
### Brazilian/Japanese Pepper

*Schinus terebinthifolius*

A thicket-producing tree that displays white flowers in summer (male tree) or red berries (female trees). Spreads from seed and suckers, damage to the tree can promote suckering.

#### Replace with:

*Banksia attenuata*, *grandis* or *menziesii*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *Melaleuca raphiophylla* or *viminea*, *Nuytsia floribunda*, *Taxandria linearifolia*.



### Lantana

*Lantana camara*

Scrambling, prickly shrub or climber, to 3m high. Flowers come in a variety of colours and are produced around Jan to Mar or Jun to Sep. Spreads by seeds or suckers.

#### Replace with:

*Calothamnus quadrifidus* or *sanguineus*, *Melaleuca incana*, *lateritia* or *seritla*.



### Cootamundra Wattle

*Acacia baileyana*

Large bushy shrub or small tree, 5–10 m high with silvery leaves. Yellow flowers are produced between Jun to Sep. Spreads by seed.

#### Replace with:

*Melaleuca preissiana*, *Nuytsia floribunda*, *Paraserianthes lophantha*.



### Flinders Range Wattle

*Acacia iteaphylla*

A dense large shrub to 4m high with grey-green leaves up to 14cm long. Yellow flowers are produced Mar to Sep. Spreads by seed.

#### Replace with:

*Melaleuca preissiana*, *Nuytsia floribunda*, *Paraserianthes lophantha*.



### Sydney Golden Wattle

*Acacia longifolia*

Shrub/Small tree 0.2-10 m high, has a dark grey bark and cylindrical yellow flowers produced between Jul to Sep. Spreads by seed.

#### Replace with:

*Melaleuca preissiana*, *Nuytsia floribunda*, *Paraserianthes lophantha*.



An example of a native garden

## Native garden

The City of Canning supports the use of local native plant species in residential and landscaped gardens. Native gardens not only look beautiful, but also help to provide habitat and food for wildlife, use less water once established, and have a reduced risk of invading bushland areas.

For a list of alternative plants to grow in your garden, you can download the **'Grow Local Plants'** brochure for your suburb from the City's website: <http://canning.wa.gov.au/Conservation-Environment/native-gardens.html>.

Specialist native nurseries can direct you to the right plants for your garden. To find your nearest native nursery, visit the **'Australian Native Plants Society'** website, click on **'Plant Guides'** and **'Australian Native Plant Nurseries'**. Florabase ([florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au)) can also be used to help select native species suitable for your area. Using the search function, a species list can be generated based on growth habit, soil type and/or location.

To reduce the risk of spreading harmful Phytophthora Dieback into your garden, check that your local nursery is Nursery and Garden Industry Accredited.



Search 'NIASA Business Search'.  
Look for the following logo.

## Helpful Resources

**Florabase** ([Florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://Florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au)):

Florabase can provide further information of weed species and recommended control methods. The search function can also be used to generate a list of native species local to your area that can be used in the garden.

**"Western Weeds: A guide to the weeds of Western Australia; Hussey, Keighery, Dodd, Lloyd and Cousens 1997.** Western Weeds details information useful in identifying weeds of Western Australia.

**Bushland Weeds: A practical guide to their management; Brown, Kate and Brooks, Kris 2002.** Bushland Weeds details information useful in the identification and treatment of weeds in Western Australia.

## For more information, contact the Parks Conservation Officer:

**t:** (08) 1300 422 664

**e:** [customer@canning.wa.gov.au](mailto:customer@canning.wa.gov.au)

**a:** Corner George Street West and Albany Highway, Cannington WA

**w:** [www.canning.wa.gov.au](http://www.canning.wa.gov.au)