

Control Options

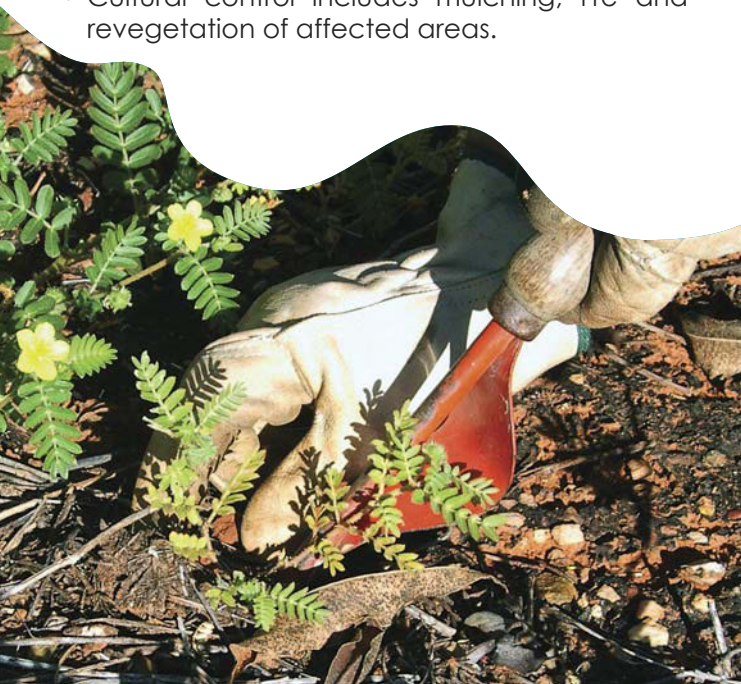
The best form of control is prevention of outbreaks. The removal of seeds from clothing, animals, vehicles and disposing of them in a bin, as well as early detection and control stops further spread and broad scale outbreaks.

Keeping disturbance of bushland to a minimum reduces the likelihood of weed establishment of some species in the first instance.

The aim of control should be to remove existing plants before they produce seed.

Types of control include physical chemical and cultural. Control may include one, or a combination of these methods:

- Physical methods include hand removal, slashing, mowing and cultivation.
- Chemical methods include foliar spray, wick application, basal bark and cut stump application.
- Cultural control includes mulching, fire and revegetation of affected areas.



ENQUIRIES AND INFORMATION

Please contact the following agencies for advice relating to weeds:

Broome Townsite

Shire of Broome
Parks and Gardens

Phone: 08 9191 8710

Agricultural Land and Agriculture Weeds

Department of Agriculture

Phone: 08 9191 0333

Crown Land

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Phone: 08 9192 1036

New Weed Species and Surveillance

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS)

Northern Australian Quarantine Service (NAQS)

Phone: 08 9194 1200



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Biodiversity Starts in Your Backyard

TREES AND SHRUBS



Coffee Bush (*Leucaena leucocephala*)

A native of Central America "coffee bush" grows into a 6 metre high tree with feathery dark green leaves and creamy-yellow "pom-pom" flowers. It is a common garden plant. The flowers produce seedpods that are long and fat and full of dark seeds when ripe. A prolific seed producer where seeds germinate readily it can grow into dense thickets and is spread by birds, wind and water movement.

VINES AND CREEPERS



Siratro (*Macropitium atropurpureum*)

A native of tropical America this rampant perennial vine has purple-black flowers on rising stalks that produce long skinny bean-shaped seedpods. Parrots eat the seedpods and the resulting plants cover native plants and fence lines, completely disintegrating the natural environment.

GRASSES, PRICKLES & BURRS



Khaki Weed (*Alternanthera pungens*)

A native of South America Khaki Weed is a prostrate perennial with broad elliptical leaves and a carrot like root system. Masses of sharp, spiny burrs are produced over the plant community commonly found in lawns and pedestrian traffic areas. When manually controlling Khaki Weed the tuberose root system must be removed altogether, otherwise reshooting will occur with more vigour.



Neem (*Azadirachta indica*)

A native of India "neem" grows into a 6 metre high tree. Originally introduced as a fast growing shade tree it has become a weed of undisturbed bushland. The clusters of yellow berries are eaten and spread by birds.



Merremia aegyptia & Merremia dissecta

A native of South America these fast growing twining vines with hairy leaves have escaped from gardens and taken over large areas of disturbed land. The leaves have finger like projections and the white flowers produce a round seedpod. Spreading rapidly these vines cover native plants, trees and fence lines.



Gallon's Curse (*Cenchrus biflorus*)

A native of Northern hemisphere tropical areas this erect grass grows up to 1 metre tall producing numerous seed heads. The seed heads form a spike with many clusters of spiny burrs that stick to clothing, skin and passing animals.



Bellyache Bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)

A native of the Caribbean it was introduced as an ornamental garden plant in the late 1900s. An erect perennial shrub to 4 metres high, the young leaves are purple and sticky. The small red flowers develop in capsules full of seeds. The seeds are toxic and grow to form dense thickets in disturbed areas.



Wild Passionfruit (*Passiflora foetida*)

A native to South America this perennial vine has soft hairy leaves, distinct passionflower and characteristic yellow orange fruit capsule. Eaten by birds the seeds are widely spread in undisturbed bushland producing vines that cover emerging plants, shrubs and trees.



Caltrop (*tribulus terrestris*)

A native of Europe Caltrop is now found in all mainland states of Australia. A spreading prostrate annual it is characterised by yellow flowers that produce an aggressive woody prickle that punctures bare feet and bicycle tyres. It is a problem on verges and all pedestrian traffic areas.



Mint Bush (*Hyptis suaveolens*)

A native of tropical America, Mint Bush is an annual shrub or woody herb which can grow up to 2 metres tall. Mint Bush has a strong mint smell when disturbed. Its prolific seeding helps it establish quickly. The seed spreads easily via means of water, animals, humans, and vehicles. Fast becoming a major weed in the Broome townsite. It takes over newly disturbed sites and quickly out competes native vegetation. Flowers are small and mauve in colour. Flowering and fruiting March to August.

HELP STOP WEEDS GROWING AND SPREADING IN BROOME



Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*)

A native of Africa and India, Buffel Grass is a perennial grass that grows to 1 metre tall and forms dense stands that compete with and overtake native grasses. Claimed to be a common cause of hay fever in Broome townsite. Flowering March to August.

In Western Australia weeds pose a greater overall threat to biodiversity than salinity.

In 2001 a State Weed Plan was developed to help achieve coordinated effective weed management in WA.

The role of the local government is to raise awareness, provide leadership and help co-ordinate local weed management programs.

A 2004 survey of the Broome Townsite identified 25 species of environmental weeds in this area.

Environmental weeds are “plants that invade natural ecosystems and have a negative effect on the natural process resulting in a decline of biodiversity”.

The Kimberley environment is a series of fragile ecosystems under threat from an increasing number of pest species.

To protect this unique environment we all have a role to help reduce the impact of these weeds in the natural environment.

This brochure identifies the most common weed species and suggests control options to help protect the natural ecology and biodiversity of this special region.



HELP STOP WEEDS GROWING AND SPREADING IN BROOME

Top: Sirato covering bushland

Bottom: Wild Passionfruit