

ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS

Plants can become environmental weeds when they escape from gardens into surrounding bushland, dune and creek edges. Plants from overseas and even native plants from other parts of Queensland and Australia have the potential to become weeds, therefore;

- treat any new plants with caution
- when in doubt, leave it as a container plant or isolate it
- think about what you are planting
- weeds can be spread when garden cuttings are dumped – even lawn cuttings can introduce weed seeds
- wind and birds can spread seeds from your garden, you can reduce this by removing spent flowers before they set seed

The weeds listed in this guide are by no means a complete list of plants that can become environmental weeds. If you are unsure as to the correct identification of a plant seek further advice before removing it, it may well be a native plant introduced into your garden by wind or birds.

Plants bought for aquariums can become weeds in our waterways. Aquarium plants must never be disposed into creeks, waterways or drains.

Cabomba or Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*) is an example of an aquarium plant that overtakes waterways blocking out light and oxygen to native aquatic plants and animals. Other serious water weeds are Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) and Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

WEED IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Plant Type



Tree



Shrub



Groundcover



Grass



Vine



Aquatic

Flowering Time



Summer



Autumn



Spring



Winter



Year round

Leaf Arrangement



Compound



Whorled



Alternate



Opposite



Basal

Invasion Mechanism



Vegetative



Animals



Wind



Bulbs, tubers etc.

Distinguishing Plant Characteristics



Berry



Pods



Flower



Spines



Toxic

Control Method



Cut and paint



Manual



Stem inject



Stem scrape

Disposal Method



Bag and bin all parts of the plant



Bag and bin viable seeds, bulbs, tubers or root. Compost other material not likely to regrow

METHODS OF REMOVAL

Manual Hand Removal (Minimal Disturbance)

1. Gently remove any seeds or fruits and place into a bag.
2. Hold stem at ground level.
3. Rock plant backwards and forwards to loosen roots, and pull out or use a gardening hand tool.
4. Tap roots to dislodge any soil. Replace disturbed soil.



Stem Scraping

1. With a knife, scrape 15 to 30cm of the stem to reach the layer below the bark/outer layer.
2. Immediately apply herbicide along the length of the scrape.



Cut and Paint - Useful for small to medium sized woody weeds

1. Make a horizontal cut as close to the ground as possible with secateurs, loppers or a bush saw.
2. Immediately apply herbicide to the exposed flat stump surface.



Stem Injection, Frilling or Chipping

1. Injection - At the base of the tree drill holes at a 45 degree angle into the sapwood at 5cm intervals. Or Frill/Chip - Make a cut into the sapwood with a chisel or axe.
2. Fill each hole/cut with herbicide immediately.
3. Repeat the process at 5cm intervals around the base.



Illustrations
by V. Bear
Courtesy of
Australian
Association
of Bush
Regeneration



Cocos palm

Syagrus romanzoffiana

Made popular by the landscape industry. Their orange fruits are spread by flying foxes, and germinate easily in bushland areas

Replace with:

Piccabeen palm

Archontophoenix cunninghamiana

Cabbage tree palm

Livistona australis



Camphor laurel

Cinnamomum camphora

Aggressive invader along waterways forming dense infestations. Toxic to wildlife. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:

Tuckeroo

Cupaniopsis anacardioides

Three veined laurel

Cryptocarya triplinervis var. *pubens*

Cooloola ironwood

Rhodamnia acuminata

Muttonwood

Myrsine variabilis





Umbrella tree

Schefflera actinophylla

Australian native from North Queensland but highly invasive in South East Queensland.

Replace with:

Beach acronychia

Acronychia imperforata

Pink euodia

Melicope elleryana

Bleeding heart

Homalanthus populifolius

Three veined laurel

Cryptocarya triplinervis var. *pubens*



Broad leaf pepper tree

Schinus terebinthifolius

Native to Brazil, this tree can grow to 8m. Aggressive invader in coastal wetlands and disturbed areas. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:

Blueberry ash

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Tuckeroo

Cupaniopsis anacardioides

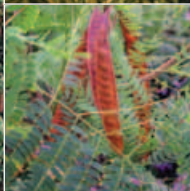
Beach bird's eye

Alectryon coriaceus

Cooloola ironwood

Rhodamnia acuminata





Leucaena

Leucaena leucocephala

Often planted as a fodder plant for cattle. This agricultural escapee sets tens of thousands of seeds per season, rapidly colonising disturbed areas.

Replace with:

Irish wattle

Acacia osbanesii

Golden candlesticks

Banksia spinulosa

Wild may

Leptospermum

polygalifolium



Mock orange

Murraya paniculata

This popular garden plant is highly invasive in natural bushland and is set to be a major weed in the future.

Replace with:

Blueberry ash

Elaeocarpus reticulatus

Carrol myrtle

Backbousia myrtifolia

Narrow-leaved lilly pilly

Acmena smithii





Brazilian cherry

Eugenia uniflora

This common garden plant is highly favoured by birds who aid in its dispersal through natural areas.

Replace with:

Carrol myrtle

Backhousia myrtifolia

Python tree

Gossia bidwillii

Blue lilly pilly

Syzygium oleosum

Narrow-leaved lilly pilly

Acmena smithii 'var minor'



Yellow bells

Tecoma stans

Ornamental garden escapee which grows to 5m. Potential to become abundant due to prolific quantities of seed produced. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:

Quinine berry

Petalostigma pubescens

Forest pittosporum

Pittosporum revolutum

Prickly-leaved paperbark

Melaleuca nodosa



Groundsel bush

Baccharis balimifolia

Groundsel is a declared plant in Queensland. Its removal is required by law.

Replace with:

Carrol myrtle

Backhousia myrtifolia

Weeping baeckea

Baeckea frutescens

Plum myrtle

Pilidistigma glabrum

Beach acronychia

Acronychia imperforata



Duranta

Duranta repens

This popular garden plant forms dense impenetrable thickets when allowed to spread into bushland.

Replace with:

Beach bird's eye

Alectryon coriaceous

Coastal banksia

Banksia integrifolia subsp. *integrifolia*

Carrol myrtle

Backhousia myrtifolia

Lemon-scented myrtle

Backhousia citriodora





Lantana

Lantana sp.

Highly invasive, forms dense thickets that smother native vegetation. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:

Golden candlesticks

Banksia spinulosa

Native lasiandra

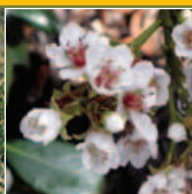
Melastoma malabathricum
subsp. malabathricum

Velvet leaf

Callicarpa pedunculata

Hairy bush pea

Pultenaea villosa



Indian hawthorn

Raphiolepis indica

A common garden plant spread by birds, this plant colonises bushland areas often forming dense thickets suppressing native regeneration

Replace with:

Thread-barked myrtle

Gossia inophloia

Twiggy myrtle

Sannantha similis

Wild may

Leptospermum polygalifolium





Easter cassia

Senna pendula

var. glabrata

Sprawling shrub from South America that colonises bushland areas preventing native regeneration.

Replace with:

Sweet wattle

Acacia suaveolens

Hairy bush pea

Pultenaea villosa

Swamp banksia

Banksia robur

Small leaf geebung

Persoonia virgata



Coral berries

Ardisia spp.

The dark green glossy foliage and red berries made these shrubs a popular indoor plant or for use in shaded gardens. Seeds are readily dispersed into bushland where they will thrive. Berries should be removed before ripening in winter to prevent dispersal.

Replace with:

Creek lillypilly

Acmena smithii





Mickey mouse plant

Ochna serrulata

A woody shrub that has an angled tap root which is easily broken when hand-pulled.

Replace with:

Hovea

Hovea acutifolia

Lemon-scented tea tree

Leptospermum liversidgei

Hop bush

Dodonea triquetra



Bitou bush

Chrysanthemoides monilifera
subsp. rotundata

A Class 1 declared plant of Queensland, bitou bush removal is required by law.

Replace with:

Mangrove boobialla

Myoporum boninense
subsp. australe

Wild may

Leptospermum polygalifolium

Hakea

Hakea plurinervia

Twiggy baeckea

Sannantha bidwillii



More than 30,000 years to create our local environment - less than 150 years to destroy it.



Agave

Agave americana

A large prickly succulent grown as an ornamental plant in gardens for their flower spike.

Replace with:
River lily

Crinum pedunculatum

Pandanus

Pandanus tectorius

Mat rush

Lomandra longifolia

Grass tree

Xanthorrhoea fulva/

Xanthorrhoea johnsonii



Purple splash

Aliburnanthera dentata

This popular ornamental edging plant is closely related to the declared Alligator Weed and is proving to be as potentially invasive.

Replace with:
Thyme-leaved honey myrtle

Melaleuca thymifolia

Midyim berry

Austromyrtus dulcis

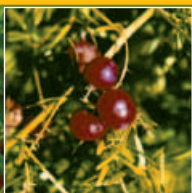
Dwarf baeckea

Babingtonia similis

Bush pea

Pultenaea villosa





Asparagus fern

Asparagus aethiopicus

Spreads rapidly dominating dunal systems, smothering native groundcovers. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:

Midyim berry

Austromyrtus dulcis

Rough maidenhair

Adiantum hispidulum

Bungwall fern

Blechnum indicum



Mother of millions

Bryophyllum spp.

Highly invasive ornamental plants. New plants will grow from any plant part that touches soil, be very careful to remove every part and destroy.

Replace with:

Kangaroo grass

Themeda triandra

Weeping baeckea

Baeckea frutescens

Pigface

Carpobrotus glaucescens

Yellow buttons

Chrysocephalum apiculatum





Succulents

Callisia fragrans; *Callisia repens*; *Tradescantia zebrina*

Three prostrate species widely used as groundcover or hanging basket plants. All three have fleshy leaves and may shoot from the stem nodes (segments). Keep contained, as even the smallest stem piece can grow into a new plant.

Replace with:

Bungwall

Blechnum indicum

Native violet

Viola banksii

Pale flax lily

Dianella longifolia



Canna lily

Canna indica

Often found invading moist areas and once established forms impenetrable thickets that are difficult to eradicate

Replace with:

Palm lily

Cordyline rubra

Native ginger

Alpinia caerulea

River lily

Crinum pedunculatum



Escaped garden plants make up over 70% of the listed environmental weeds in Australia.



Painted spurge

Euphorbia cyathophora

Native annual of tropical America naturalised in dry disturbed coastal areas.

Replace with:

Wallum bottlebrush

Melaleuca pachyphylla

Wallum grevillea

Grevillea leiophylla

Thyme-leaved honey myrtle

Melaleuca thymifolia

Rice flower

Pimelea linifolia subsp. *linifolia*



Gazania

Gazania rigens

A popular groundcover used for commercial and home gardens. It has the potential to displace native groundcover species when plants are dumped in natural areas as greenwaste.

Replace with:

Small-leaved guinea flower

Hibbertia vestita

Fan flower

Scaevola calendulacea

Pig face

Carpobrotus glaucescens





Gloriosa lily

Gloriosa superba

Garden escapee that is rapidly displacing native plants along the coastal dunes.

Toxic.

Replace with:

Jack bean

Canavalia rosea

Fan flower

Scaevola calendulacea

Rice flower

Pimelea linifolia subsp.
linifolia



Balsam

Impatiens walleriana

Invades moist shady places and quickly suppresses native seedlings and groundcovers.

Replace with:

Rice flower

Pimelea linifolia

Native violet

Viola banksii

Forest lobelia

Lobelia trigonocaulis

Common flax lily

Dianella caerulea





Fishbone fern

Nephrolepis cordifolia

Invasive fern that out-competes native groundcovers. Needs persistence to remove once established.

Replace with:

Bungwall fern

Blechnum indicum

Rough maidenhair

Adiantum bispidulum

Rasp fern

Doodia aspera

Common flax lily

Dianella caerulea



Prickly pear

Opuntia sp.

A Class 2 declared plant of Queensland that can form large clumps in natural areas.

Replace with:

Native lasiandra

Melastoma malabathricum
subsp. malabathricum

Dwarf banksia

Banksia oblongifolia

Broad-leaved Banksia

Banksia robur





Mother-in-law's tongue

Sansevieria trifasciata

Often spread through people dumping garden waste. Once established it is difficult to eradicate.

Replace with:

Grass tree

Xanthorrhoea fulva/

Xanthorrhoea johnsonii

Vanilla lily

Sowerbaea juncea

River lily

Crinum pedunculatum

Beach flax lily

Dianella congesta



Singapore daisy

Spagneticola trilobata

Highly invasive garden escapee. Forms a dense carpet, smothering native regeneration. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:

Twining guinea flower

Hibbertia scandens

Australian bugle flower

Ajuga australis

Fan flower

Scaevola calendulacea

Beach flax lily

Dianella congesta





Madeira vine

Anredera cordifolia

This extremely invasive garden escapee smothers and destroys native bushland. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:
Richmond birdwing butterfly vine

Pararistolochia praevenosa

Scrambling lily

Geitonoplesium cymosum

Wax flower

Hoya australis subsp. australis

Fraser island creeper

Tecomanthe billi



Dutchman's pipe

Aristolochia elegans

This species is poisonous to the caterpillars of the rare Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. Class 3 declared plant of Queensland.

Replace with:
Richmond birdwing butterfly vine

Pararistolochia praevenosa

Monkey rope

Parsonsia straminea

Fraser island Creeper

Tecomanthe billi

Native jasmine

Morinda jasminoides





Moon flower



Blue morning glory



Mile-a-minute

These three vines can smother native vegetation and displace native vine species.

Moon flower

Ipomoea alba

Moon vine is a species of night-blooming morning-glory which is native to tropical and subtropical regions of South America.

Blue morning glory

Ipomoea indica

Mile-a-minute has pale mauve or white flowers and was considered native to tropical Africa and Asia but is now widespread in South-east Queensland.

Mile-a-minute

Ipomoea cairica

This vine has deep purple flowers and can smother native shrubs and trees into the canopy.

Replace with:

Richmond birdwing butterfly vine

Pararistolochia praevanosa

Native wisteria

Callerya megasperma

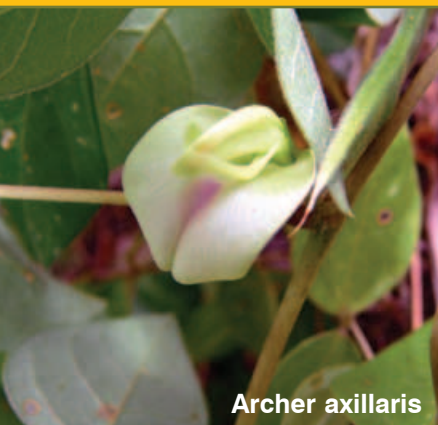
Twining guinea flower

Hibbertia scandens

Bower of beauty

Pandorea jasminoides





Archer axillaris



Glycine



Siratro

Archer axillaris

Macrotyloma axillaris

Glycine

Neonotonia wightii

Siratro

Macroptilium atropurpureum

All three vines were introduced into Australia to improve pastures. They are readily dispersed by seed and all three have become serious weeds in bushland and gardens where they smother native and landscape plants.

Replace with:

Twining guinea flower

Hibbertia scandens

Native sarsaparilla

Hardenbergia violacea

The world doesn't stop at your fence - neither do the weeds. Wind, water and birds spread them, so do the right thing.





Corky passion vine

Passiflora suberosa

Displaces and strangles native vegetation.

Replace with:

Scrambling lily

Geitonoplesium cymosum

Wonga vine

Pandorea pandorana

Fraser island

Creeper

Tecomantbe billii

Richmond birdwing

Butterfly vine

Pararistolochia praevenosa



Brazilian nightshade

Solanum seaforthianum

This weed species originates from South America. The leaves cluster on the twining stems which may smother native trees & shrubs. In summer the deep purple flower heads are followed by bright red succulent berries which are dispersed by birds.

Replace with:

Bower of beauty

Pandorea jasminoides

Native wisteria

Callerya megasperma

Fraser Island creeper

Tecomantbe billii





Arrowhead vine

Syngonium spp

Very fast growing trailing plants often used as indoor or hanging basket plants. While leaf colours may vary between the different species they all retain the arrowhead shape which give these plants their common name.

Replace with:

Wax flower

Hoya australis



Black-eyed susan

Thunbergia alata

A vigorous climber from Africa. The soft, hairy leaves are almost lost amongst the deep orange flowers from late spring to early autumn. This perennial plant is increasingly being identified in bushland areas on the east coast of Australia.

Replace with:

Native sarsaparilla

Hardenbergia violacea

Fraser Island creeper

Tecomanthe billii

Richmond birdwing butterfly vine

Pararistolochia praevanosa





Alligator weed

Alternanthera philoxeroides
Spreading perennial native to South America. Grows with roots in the soil or floating on the water's surface. The leaves are opposite on hollow stems and the papery white flowers form a ball-like shape at the leaf axils. Declared class 1 pest.

Replace with:

Knobbly club-rush

Ficinia nodosa

Tall sedge

Carex appressa

Woolly frogmouth

Philydrum lanuginosum



Cabomba

Cabomba caroliniana
Submerged aquatic plant with stems that can grow up to 3m. The feathery, fanlike foliage and white emergent flowers readily identify this species. Declared class 2 pest often moved by boating and fishing equipment.

Replace with:

Water snowflake

Nymphoides indica

Swamp lily

Ottelia ovalifolia



Dispose of your aquarium plants thoughtfully. They spread like wildfire choking our waterways.



Water lettuce

Pistia stratiotes

This Class 2 declared plant has commonly been grown in water features and ponds. The large rosette of thick leaves floats on the waters surface. Flowers are hidden amongst the leaves. This plant is still sometimes found for sale.

Replace with:
Native waterlily

Nympahaea violacea



Salvinia

Salvinia molesta

An introduced plant from South America that has been declared a Class 2 pest plant of Queensland. It is illegal to sell or distribute. Often spread through use as an ornamental plant or by being moved by boating/fishing equipment. Light green, opposite leaves are hairy on the surface giving buoyancy.

Replace with:

Swamp lily

Ottelia ovalifolia

Native waterlily

Nympahaea violacea

The local native plants in this brochure may not be available at some nurseries. Like all businesses, nurseries respond to market demands. If the plants you want aren't in stock, request them. Every time you ask you are increasing the demand - and the supply will follow. Weekend markets are often another source of plants - take care that you don't waste your money buying a weed.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

For more information on other plants that are native to the Sunshine Coast Region, the following books may assist you:

Eustace, R. (1996) *Indigenous Gardening – Growing Local Native Plants*. Mc Benny Pty Ltd., Cannon Hill.

Harrold, A. (1994) *Wildflowers of the Noosa-Cooloola area*. Noosa Parks Association Inc., Noosa Heads.

Haslam, S. (2011) *Noosa's Native Plants*. Published by Noosa Integrated Catchment Assoc. Inc., Tewantin or online at www.noosasnativeplants.com.au

Kleinschmidt, H., Holland, A. and Simpson, P. (1996) *Suburban Weeds*. Third Edition. Department of Primary Industries, Queensland.

Leiper G et al (2010), *Mangroves to Mountains*, Published by Logan River Branch SGAP, (Qld Region) Inc.

MacRae, I.C. (1996) *Wildflowers of Bribie Island*. Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association Inc., Bribie Island.

Stephens K.M., Sharp D, (2009), *The Flora of North Stradbroke Island*. Brisbane: Queensland Herbarium, Printed by Goprint., Brisbane

The first edition of this booklet was developed and produced by a small dedicated group of Coolum District Coast Care volunteers.

This edition is produced by Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with Coolum District Coast Care Group.

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Photos for this edition have been provided courtesy of Stephanie Haslam, Leigh Warneminde, John Russell, Coolum Community Native Nursery, Michael Gilles, Chris Jonkers, Paul Donatiu, Suzanne Aspland, Jake Hazzard, Melinda Barlow, Ray Seddon, Qld Museum, Coolum District Coast Care Group, Dept of Primary Industries and Forestry and Cameron Traill.



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