WEEDS
of the Goulburn Broken
A FIELD GUIDE TO TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC WEEDS
3RD EDITION
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Contents

Introduction ........................................................... 2
The Goulburn Broken Catchment ............................ 3
Legislative Requirements........................................... 4
How to use this Booklet............................................. 6
How Weeds Spread .................................................... 7
Control Options....................................................... 8
Weed Descriptions.................................................... 9-91
Index......................................................................... 92-96
References.............................................................. 97
Introduction

Weeds cost the community millions of dollars each year in lost productivity and have a significant impact on the natural environment.

In Victoria, there are over one hundred declared noxious weeds proclaimed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. These weeds are classified under four categories: State Prohibited, Regionally Prohibited, Regionally Controlled and Restricted. The responsibility for management of declared noxious weeds varies for each category.

In addition to declared noxious weeds, there are numerous other weed species that impact on the agricultural and environmental values of the Goulburn Broken catchment. The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries coordinate a range of weed management programs across the catchment in an effort to minimise weed impacts.

All land managers have a responsibility to manage weeds on their land, irrespective of whether the land is public or private land. As a land manager, it is important to be able to identify weeds that may pose a threat to your land or neighbouring land. Early identification will enable you to implement management plans that prevent weed establishment or spread.

The purpose of Weeds of the Goulburn Broken is to provide all land managers, public and private with a locally relevant field guide that will assist in the identification and management of environmental and agricultural weeds in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The third edition now includes aquatic weeds.

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In Victoria, Declared Noxious Weeds are classified as State Prohibited, Regionally Prohibited, Regionally Controlled and Restricted.

**State Prohibited Weeds**
State Prohibited Weeds either; do not yet occur in Victoria but pose a significant threat if they were to invade, or are present, pose a significant threat and it is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from the State.

Control of State Prohibited Weeds is the responsibility of DPI wherever they occur across the State.

**Regionally Prohibited Weeds**
Regionally Prohibited Weeds are not widely distributed across the region but are capable of spreading further. It is reasonable to expect that these weeds can be eradicated from the region.

Control is the responsibility of both public and private land managers on their land and Vic Roads on Declared Roads under the Victorian Transport Act 1983, and DPI on roadsides.

**Regionally Controlled Weeds**
Regionally Controlled Weeds exist in the region and are usually widespread. Continued control measures are required to prevent further spread to clean land.

Control is the responsibility of both public and private land managers on their land and Vic Roads on Declared Roads under the Victorian Transport Act 1983.
Restricted Weeds
Restricted weeds seriously threaten primary production, Crown Land, the environment or community health in another State or Territory and have the potential to spread into and within Victoria. If sold or traded in Victoria there would be an unacceptable risk of it spreading within Victoria and to States and Territories.

There is no requirement for land managers to control restricted weeds on their property. However, they cannot be traded or transported within Victoria.

Undeclared Weeds
These weeds are not classified under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic.), but are recognised as a serious threat to agriculture and the environment.

Weeds of National Significance
In order to implement the National Weeds Strategy, 20 weeds of National Significance have been identified, which require coordinated action across all States and Territories to reduce their impact on Australia’s productive capacity and natural ecosystems. The weeds were determined according to their:
- invasiveness;
- impact;
- potential to spread; and
- socioeconomic and environmental values.
The shaded months in this calendar are a guide to indicate the optimum treatment time for each weed in an average year. Treatment times may vary slightly due to topography and local seasonal conditions.

The chart above indicates the optimal treatment times are May, June, July and August, depending on seasonal conditions.

Indicates that the weed is a perennial (growing cycle lasts for more than two seasons).

Indicates that the weed is an annual (growing cycle lasts one year).

The weeds in this booklet are divided into two sections with each page containing a photograph and a botanical description of the weed. The classification of the weed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 is listed at the top of each page. A description of these classifications is included on pages 4 and 5.

Pages shaded ORANGE in this booklet identify State Prohibited and Regionally Prohibited weeds, as well as two Regionally Controlled noxious weeds (Blackberry and Gorse) considered to be high priorities in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Pages shaded GREEN in this booklet identify other weeds considered to pose a threat to agriculture and the natural environment in the catchment. These include Regionally Controlled and Restricted weeds, as well as a number of undeclared weeds.

Note: A review of Victoria’s declared noxious weeds is currently being undertaken and as a consequence the weed classifications described in this booklet may change.
How weeds spread

Weeds may be spread by many or all of the ways represented below. For the purposes of this booklet, only the most significant methods of spread have been indicated for each weed.

- Seed or plant pieces spread in farm produce such as grain and fodder
- Movement of seed or plant pieces in contaminated soil
- Seed eaten or carried by birds and animals
- Seed eaten by waterfowl
- Seed or plant pieces carried by water
- Seed blown by wind
- Plant pieces spread by boat
- Seed eaten by stock
- Seed or plant pieces carried on equipment, vehicles and machinery
- Seed or plant pieces spread by cultivation
- Seed spread by slashing or mowing
Weeds may be controlled by many or all of the ways represented below. For the purposes of this booklet, only the most common methods of control have been indicated for each weed.

- Spot spray foliage with appropriate herbicide*
- Cut and Paint with appropriate herbicide*
- Mechanical removal
- Hand weeding
- DPI responsible for control
- Cultivation prior to flowering

* There are restrictions on the use of some chemicals within the Goulburn Broken Catchment. When using herbicides consult an agromomist or rural merchandise store for advice on the appropriate herbicide for your situation and use in accordance with the manufacturer’s label.
African Lovegrass

Eragrostis curvula
(Weeping Lovegrass, Fyngrass, Boer Lovegrass)

Description: A vigorous tussocky grass, growing to 120 cm tall and reproducing by seed.

Flowers: Same colour as the plant. Found in clusters on small branches at the end of each stem. Each cluster may contain 3-14 flowers up to 10 mm long and 1 mm wide. Flowers in Summer.

Leaves: Vary from green to blue green, usually hairless and curled at the edges. Blades 25–35 cm long and 3 mm wide. Obvious ridges run the length of the leaves making them rough to the touch. A conspicuous ring of hairs between the leaf blade and its covering sheath.

Stems: Slender and erect. Sometimes bent at the lower nodes.

Note: A highly persistent summer weed that will dominate disturbed or sparsely covered areas.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with several native Eragrostis species including Weeping Lovegrass E.parviflora.
Description: Generally aquatic but can be terrestrial. May form a free-floating mat or be rooted with surface growth.

Flowers: Silver/white flower heads 1.2-1.4 cm diameter on 2-7 cm stems growing from leaf axils. Flowers generally produced from January to March.

Leaves: Dark green, smooth and waxy. 2-7 cm long and tapering at the tip. Growing in opposite pairs along the main stem with veins clearly visible.

Stems: 10-70 cm long, yellow to dark green and often branched. Usually hollow and forming large dense mats.

Note: Highly invasive and destructive weed. Chokes waterways, depletes oxygen and collects sediment. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with knotweeds (Persicaria spp.) when immature and without flowers. Also confused with other, less invasive, introduced Alternanthera species, such as Mukunu Wenna (A. sessilis), used in some Asian cooking. It is unlikely to be confused with the native species, A. denticulata.
Description: An erect herb between 20-70 cm tall.

Flowers: Bright yellow to orange in small 5 petal trumpets. Usually grouped in a curved spike 5-15 cm long. Flowers appear between July and October.

Leaves: Up to 20 cm long and covered in hairy bristles. Rosette and base leaves occur on short stalks, upper leaves clasp the stem.


Note: Highly competitive and a prolific seeder which can significantly reduce cereal crop yields.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Undeclared Weed

Arrowhead

Sagittaria graminea
(Sagittaria, Delta Arrowhead, Slender Arrowhead)

Description: Emergent aquatic herb that is rooted in the soil. Spreads from seed, rhizomes and tubers.

Flowers: White to pink and always below leaf height. 3 cm in diameter formed in three flowered whorls at the end of stalks, each with three sepals and three petals. Appear from January to May.

Fruit: In clusters 5-15 mm wide amongst flower heads.

Leaves: Emergent leaves broad and then tapering to a point. 10-25 cm long, 2-8 cm wide and on stems with triangular cross-section. Submerged leaves are strap-like and up to 50 cm long and 2.5 cm wide.

Stems: Erect or occasionally bent near the middle. Up to 20 cm long and ending in flower clusters.

Note: Competitive weed of waterways and rice fields. A particular threat to natural lagoons and backwaters.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with water plantain (Alisma plantago-aquatica). Juvenile form can be confused with other species in the same family (Alismataceae), before mature, upright leaves develop, including A. plantago-aquatica and Damasonium minus.
Zantedeschia aethiopica
(Calla Lily, Death Lily, Funeral Flower, Lily of the Nile, Pig Lily)

Description: Robust herb with thick rhizomous roots, forming a tuft of fleshy-stalked green leaves to 1 m tall.

Flowers: Yellow inside a large white sheath. All year.

Leaves: Dark green, glossy, 15-45 cm long and 10-25 cm wide. Arrowhead shaped.

Leaf stems: Robust, 50-100 cm long and growing from rhizomes.

Roots: White, long, fleshy and occasionally branched. Growing from rhizome at the base of the stem.

Note: Most of the spread has been a result of careless garden waste disposal.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with Monochoria (Monochoria cyanea) or Pickerel Weed (Pontederia cordata), if not in flower.
Description: An erect herb with many branches, usually 30-60 cm tall. Can exceed 1 m tall in favourable conditions.

Flowers: Inconspicuous creamy green flowers formed at the end of stems and at leaf nodes during Summer.

Leaves: Shiny dark green above and pale green and downy underneath. Leaves are alternate and clasp the stem. Prominent central vein.

Stems: Greenish yellow and covered in fine hairs. Sharp golden spikes to 2.5 cm shoot from the base of leaves.

Fruit: Brown/straw coloured burr, 1-1.5 cm long. Covered with small hooks. Usually single along stem.

Note: Burrs are one of the worst causes of vegetable contamination in wool. Competes with desirable plants and has vicious spikes, which cause damage to the feet of stock and severe discomfort to people when handling wool.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: A twinning herb that grows along the ground.

Flowers: White to dark pink, funnel shaped and up to 3 cm in diameter. Occurring on stems shooting from leaf axils up to four at a time. Each flower only lasts one day and they appear between Spring to early Autumn.

Leaves: Alternate and arrow shaped on short stalks, dark green and generally between 2-5 cm long.

Stems: Prostrate or climbing and growing up to 2 m long. Sometimes has short hairs and tends to spiral towards the tips.

Note: Strong competitor in cropping situations where its extensive root system robs desirable plants of moisture. Spreads from seed and root pieces. Similar in appearance to native Bindweed’s, although generally much larger.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Bindweed Convolvulus erubescens.
**Blackberry**

*Rubus fruticosus spp. agg.*  
(Bramble)

Description: An erect woody bush with scrambling and prickly stems (canes).

Flowers: White to pink flowers with 5 petals form in clusters at the end of branches. Flowers from December to February.

Leaves: Oval, dark glossy green on the upper side and lighter underneath with fine hairs. Edges lightly serrated. Leaves shed in winter.

Stems: Erect or sprawling canes up to 7 m long. Green to reddish purple and covered in curved thorns.

Fruit: Produced from December - March. Initially hard green cluster of berry segments turning to red then black on ripening.

Note: Invades natural watercourses as well as agricultural land. Inhibits natural regeneration and reduces agricultural productivity. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Rubus species, such as the Small-leaf Bramble, Rubus parvifolius.
Description: An erect herb growing to 1m tall and spreading by creeping lateral roots.

Flowers: Reddish-purple flowers with forked outer petals. 3-4 cm in diameter occurring singly at the end of branches from December to February.

Leaves: Grey/green to green, hairy and oblong shaped. Lower leaves can be toothed or smooth edged and up to 25 cm long. Upper leaves are much smaller and clasp stem.

Stems: Erect up to 1 m. Ridged, hairy and rough to touch. Initially green but turning purple when mature.

Note: Prohibits the germination and growth of desirable species and is not grazed by stock.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Blue Periwinkle

Description: Perennial creeper to 50 cm tall with lateral stems to 2 m. Forms dense mats smothering other desirable plants.

Flowers: Single blue occasionally white, in leaf-axils. Tube is usually 2 cm long with 5 petals (lobes) 1.5-2 cm long. Petals are square at ends. Appear from May to December.

Fruit: 1-4 seeds contained in paired woody follicles, 2-5 cm long and 1 cm wide.

Leaves: Opposite, broad, glossy, 3-8 cm long and 1-4 cm wide. Margins with hairs.

Stems: Mostly green turning woody at the base.

Note: Able to spread rapidly in heavily shaded conditions. Often spread through the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Deciduous tree to 20 m tall.

Flowers: Male flowers clustered and hanging. Female flowers on a single long drooping branched stalk. Male and female flowers are on different plants. Flowers from September to November.

Fruit: Winged and 3-4 cm long in pairs.

Leaves: Contain 3-7 leaflets, each 4-12 cm long and 2-4 cm wide with a slightly larger leaflet at the end.

Stems: Brownish grey bark, smooth when young and becoming flaky with age.

Note: Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect spiny shrub to 5 m tall with spreading branches.

Flowers: White with some purple markings, appearing mainly in Summer but also at other times. 1 cm in diameter and containing of 5 petals. Occurring singly or in pairs. Appears from June to October.

Leaves: Oval, glossy green and appearing in clusters. 3.5 cm long and fleshy when plant is active and shed when the conditions are unfavourable.

Stems: Erect, woody, much branched, bearing spines of up to 15 cm along and at the end of branches.

Fruit: Drooping on short stems and 1 cm in diameter. Green to red when mature. Contains many small seeds.

Note: Forms dense, impenetrable thickets, restricting stock and human access to water, tracks and fences etc. Spikes can cause injury and puncture car tyres. Harbours pest animals.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with the Australian Boxthorn, Lycium austral, though flower differs slightly, and thorns are positioned between nodes, rather than on nodes, as L. ferocissimum.
Description: A climbing herb with an extensive tuberous root system.

Flowers: Greenish-white, 8-9 mm in diameter and appearing in leaf axils between August and September.

Fruit: A round berry 6-10 mm in diameter. Green, turning red and sticky when mature.

Leaves: Oval, glossy green and alternate with pointed tips. Usually 1-4 cm long and 0.5-1.5 cm wide.

Stems: Slender, twining and up to 3 m long.

Note: Highly competitive and invasive in natural bushland and orchards. Climbs on and chokes understorey species. Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Mostly a submersed aquatic herb. Usually rooted but sometimes free-floating in mats.

Flowers: White or cream, sometimes with a pink tinge at the end and 2 yellow spots at the base of each petal. 2 cm in diameter and consisting of 3 petals on short stalks. Appearing between November and March.

Leaves: Submerged leaves opposite or in whorls. Finely divided into many segments that form a fan shape approximately 3 cm long. Surface leaves narrow, 2 cm long and sometimes forked at the tip.

Stems: Slender, branched to 2 m long and covered in a thin mucilaginous (slimy) coating.

Note: Popular aquarium plant. Spreads easily from stem fragments and can restrict water flows. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with Hornwort (Ceratophyllum demersum), though Hornwort has a stiffer texture.
Description: A prostrate Summer growing annual.

Flowers: Yellow, 8-15 mm in diameter with 5 petals. Growing from leaf axils in early Summer through to Autumn.

Leaves: Darker on top and slightly hairy underneath. Each leaf consists of 4-8 pairs of small leaflets 5-12 mm long.

Stems: Numerous green to reddish-brown stems radiating from a central crown. Up to 2 m long and sometimes slightly erect when competing for space or light.

Fruit: A woody burr with sharp rigid spines up to 6 mm long, splitting into 5 segments when mature.

Note: Caltrop burrs damage the feet of animals and are a painful nuisance to people, especially on playing fields, walkways and around buildings.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect spiny shrub to 1.5 m tall.

Flowers: Red/brown pea like flowers, 7-10 cm long, produced in clusters of up to 8 on short branches and along spikes. Flowering occurs from late Spring to Summer.

Leaves: Up to 2.5 cm long, pale green and usually solitary at the base of spines.

Stems: Rigid and much branched bearing 1-2.5 cm spines with fine golden tips.

Fruit: A reddish brown pod 2.5 cm long containing 1-5 well-defined seeds.

Note: A hardy and vigorous plant with an extensive root system.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Bitter-pea species including Daviesia genistifolia.
Description: An erect shrub to 3 m tall and reproducing by seed.

Flowers: Bright yellow, pea like and about 1.2 cm long. Appearing late winter through spring in clusters of up to 9 in leaf axils and at the of branches.

Leaves: Shortly stalked and made up of 3 leaflets that are hairy underneath. Middle leaflet longer than others.

Stems: Erect, woody, ridged and finely hairy. One main stem with many branches.

Fruit: Silky black or brown pods containing 5-8 seeds that are ejected on hot days in summer.

Note: Spreads readily through seed ejection. Forms dense stands excluding other vegetation.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species, though may be confused with other introduced brooms.
Cape Tulip

Moraea flaccida and Moraea miniata

Description: 30-60 cm tall reproducing from seed and corms.

Flowers: Orange or pink (occasionally yellow) with a yellow throat. 3-5 cm diameter with 6 petals. Appearing in clusters at the end of branches in September-October.

Leaves: Flat, ribbed, 1-2 cm wide and up to 1m long.

Stems: Stiff, erect, somewhat alternate and branched near the top.

Fruit: Green, turning brown when mature. A thin capsule, approx 5 cm long.

Note: Toxic to stock. There are two varieties of Cape Tulip; One leaf and Two leaf. The description and lifecycle for both are very similar except Two leaf Cape Tulip does not produce viable seed and instead develops a cluster of many small corms at the leaf axis and the base of the plant. The flowers are also slightly smaller and the plant produces 2-3 leaves rather than one.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Creeping, shallow-rooted, Summer-growing perennial grass that can form dense mats.

Flowers: Between 2-5 spreading, spike like racemes. Spikelets are arranged in rows along raceme, with each containing 1 white-pale yellow floret.

Leaves: Smooth, hairless and flat with a rounded base. Between 5-20 cm long and 2-6 mm wide.

Fruit: Numerous, small, light seeds 1.8 mm long and 0.8 mm wide.

Note: Occurs over a wide range of soil types and climates. Most common in damp or swampy conditions.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Windmill Grass Chloris truncata or Couch Grass Cynodon dactylon.
Description: Shrub to about 6 m tall containing toxins harmful to humans and stock.

Flowers: Upper flowers female with separate male flowers lower on the same plant. Reddish and produced in Summer. Appears from October to February.

Fruit: Seed 1-1.5 cm long in a soft, spiny, 3-celled green capsule to 2 cm long that dries to become reddish-brown. Seeds ejected explosively.

Leaves: Palmate leaves up to 50 cm across with 6-9 uneven lobes with a serrated edge. Leaves produce an unpleasant smell when crushed.

Stems: Hollow.

Roots: Thick and fibrous.

Note: 2-8 seeds can kill a human.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
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**Description:** Tussock grass growing to about 1 m tall.

**Flowers:** A loose flowering head to 40 cm long. Appears between March and August.

**Leaves:** Narrow, hairless or sparsely hairy, flat or slightly rolled leaves, up to 30 cm long and 5 mm wide.

**Seed:** Raised crown consisting of a sheath with a ridge of small teeth that encircles the base of the awn (long “tail” of seeds). The awn is 60-90 mm long and bent at two points. The seed is 8-10 mm long, pale brown, warty and usually lacking hairs. The bracts around the seed are purple. Stem seed is also produced at swelling along the stem. The base of the leaves conceals the stem seed.

**Note:** Invades native grasslands and agricultural land. Is difficult to control selectively. Weed of National Significance.

**Similar Native Species:** Could be confused with a number of native Spear grasses (Austrostipa spp).
Description: A submerged aquatic herb. Usually rooted but sometimes free floating.

Flowers: White with 3 petals 9-11 mm long and on thread-like stems up to 7.5 cm long growing from upper leaf axils. Appear between November and March.

Fruit: On female plants only. Not yet recorded in Australia.

Leaves: Dark green-brown, 1.5-3 cm long, 3-5 mm wide and tapering to a point. Stem clasping with a faint midrib. Lower leaves opposite and upper leaves in whorls of 3-7.

Stems: Green-brown, slender, branched and up to 5 m long.

Note: Forms extremely dense stands that can retard water flow. Spreads from plant fragments.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata). Could also be confused with the introduced Elodea canadensis.
**Fraxinus angustifolia**  
(Narrow Leaf Ash)

Description: Deciduous tree to 20 m tall and freely suckering from roots.

Flowers: Inconspicuous, green or purple in branched clusters, without petals and appearing before leaves. Appears between October and February.

Fruit: Green, 3-4 cm long on drooping stalks and in large clusters turning brown when ripe.

Leaves: Opposite, 14-20 cm long, divided into 5-7 (occasionally more) leaflets 5-8 cm long and 5-20 mm wide. Tapering at each end.

Stems: Greyish brown with prominent ridges.

Note: Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Dodder

*Cuscuta spp.*
(Beggar Vine, Golden Dodger)

Description: Twining parasitic herb that reproduces by seed. Forms dense mats along river banks.

Flowers: White to creamy pink, bell shaped and 4 mm in diameter. Formed in clusters between Spring and Autumn.

Fruit: Globular capsules containing up to 4 tiny brown-grey seeds.

Leaves: Tiny inconspicuous scales.

Stems: Bright yellow to green, thread like and twining with numerous branches. Twists tightly around host plants.

Note: Dodder damages both agricultural and native plants. It has been recorded on over 80 different host plants in Victoria.

Similar Native Species: Native and introduced species of *Cuscuta* occur in Victoria, and these could be confused.
Description: An erect deciduous woody shrub to 3 m tall.

Flowers: Pea like, bright yellow and sometimes with red markings. 2-2.5 cm long occurring singly or in pairs in leaf axis. Flowers occur from October to December.

Leaves: Shortly stalked and occurring singly or in clusters. Each leaf consists of three leaflets except on new growth. Leaflets softly hairy. Middle leaflet longer than others.

Stems: Green to brown with prominent ridges, erect woody with numerous branches.

Fruit: Brown to black pod to 5cm long containing 6-20 seeds.

Note: Invades bushland, especially after disturbance.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species, though may be confused with other introduced brooms.
English Ivy

**Hedera helix**

(Canary Ivy, Common Ivy, Ivy)

Description: Perennial growing to 30 m in length that can form dense mats and prevent revegetation.

Flowers: Greenish-yellow, in large clusters and each flower is 1.5-4 cm long. Flowers between March and July.

Fruit: Globular black berry with 1-3 hard seeds.

Leaves: Alternate, usually glossy, dark green and lighter on underside. Juvenile (young) leaves are hand-shaped with 3-5 fingers (lobes) and have lighter veins, turning heart-shaped when mature.

Stems: Green, flexible and scrambling when young, turning woody when mature. Climbing stems have roots along the underside.

Roots: Climbing roots, 1-3 mm long on underside of stem. Stems re-shoot at nodes when cut.

Note: Spread by seed and stems. Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: A tussock-forming perennial that grows near the urban fringe on disturbed, moist soils.

Flowers: A feathery spike with bristles, pale green or purple colour and 2-12 cm long. Appearing in late Summer.

Leaves: Strongly ribbed, flat or folded blades with a green or blue-green colouration. Can range in length from 6-30 cm long, with a width of 2-6 mm and up to 6 leaves per stem.

Stems: Erect and cylindrical, up to 90 cm long with several sprouting from one crown. Slender and generally without hairs except at the base of the flower.

Note: Seeds germinate but rarely survive, with most reproduction occurring from the crown or rhizomes that shoot in spring and summer.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect herb, 1.5-2.5 m tall.

Flowers: Branching from the top of the stem in groups of 15 to 20. Flowers are 2 to 3 mm in diameter and yellow in colour. Appearing in Summer.

Leaves: Stringy and up to 45 cm long. The leaves have a very strong aniseed scent when crushed. Often formed at the base of the plant and break down as the plant becomes mature.

Stems: Smooth with faint ridges and heavily branched with a number of stems emerging from the crown. The stem is also filled with spongy white pith.

Note: Spread easily by soil disturbance through movement of bulbs. Usually found in moist places (e.g. roadsides, channel banks and depressions).

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
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Description: Erect herb with fine hairs. Tall fleabane growing 1-2 m high and Flax-leaf fleabane growing 20-70 cm high.

Flowers: Creamy white or occasionally purplish, bell-shaped and in small clusters. On short stalks at the ends of branches between Spring and Autumn.

Fruit: Small seed with a parachute of fine hairs.

Leaves: Greyish green and narrow, to 15 cm long and coarsely toothed. Upper leaves 2-8 cm long with fine teeth.

Stems: Tall fleabane differs from Flax-leaf by only having one central stem and is branched at the top, rather than the base.

Note: Both species occur in similar situations and have similar growth characteristics. Dense stands can smother native vegetation.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect, much branched shrub to 4 m tall.

Flowers: Bright yellow pea-like flowers 2-2.5 cm long. Found in leaf axils and in clusters at the end of branches. Appearing between July and October and March to May.

Leaves: Dark green, narrow and spiny, 1-2.5 cm long, stalkless and occurring in whorled clusters along the branches.

Stems: Green when young and turning to brown and woody when mature. Ridged and hairy. Covered with spines and bearing short branches with spiny ends.

Note: Introduced as a garden hedge. Prolific seeder and highly invasive. A dense stand can produce 6 million seeds per hectare per year. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect, densely hairy biennial herb up to 2.5 m tall.

Flowers: Yellow, 2-2.5 cm diameter, clustered on flower spike up to 1 m tall. 5 petals, 3 with fine woolly filaments. Flowers occur between January and March.

Leaves: Grey-green, covered with matted layers of short hairs. Rosette leaves are alternate and up to 50 cm long. Stem leaves tapered at the base and strongly veined underneath.

Stems: One main erect stem. Densely woolly with wings running down from leaf bases.

Note: Readily colonises less fertile sites and dominates disturbed and overgrazed areas.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Hardheads

Acroptilon repens
(Hardhead Thistle, Creeping Knapweed, Russian Knapweed)

Description: Appearance of a spike-less thistle 40 -100 cm tall.

Flowers: Small, hard, thistle like heads, solitary at the end of branches. Purple, sometimes white, 2.5 cm diameter, appears between November and February.

Leaves: Lance shaped, larger and toothed at base and smaller with edges up the stem. Grey/green with a cover of fine woolly hairs.

Stems: Erect grey/green stems arise from the centre of rosettes and have a covering of fine hair. Branched towards the top.

Note: Hardy, deep-rooted and long living. Can severely reduce crop yields.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect deciduous shrub to 6 m tall.

Flowers: White, cream or pink, 8-13 mm in diameter and in flat-topped clusters at the end of small branches. Strongly scented and occurring in Spring.

Leaves: Green and varying from oval to triangular. Divided into lobes and generally coarsely serrated.

Stems: Erect and branched with many small branches ending in stout spines. Bark rough at base and smoother towards the top.

Fruit: Clusters of deep red berries 8 mm in diameter.

Note: Provides harbour for pest animals and disease such as Fire Blight.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Regionally Controlled Weed

Hoary Cress

Cardaria draba
(White Weed, Hoary Pepperwort, White Top, Whitlow Pepperwort)

Description: An erect herb 15-75 cm tall.

Flowers: White, 4-6 mm diameter and contains 4 petals. Clustered at the top of the plant. Appearing between September and November.

Leaves: Covered with fine hairs, lower leaves to 10 cm long oval or wedge shaped and short staked. Upper leaves smaller and stem clasping.

Stems: Erect, branched near top, covered with fine downy hairs. Vertically ridged.

Note: Seriously effects crop yields. Difficult to control and spread by seed and root fragments.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Marrubium vulgare
(White Horehound)

Description: An erect bushy herb to 75 cm tall.

Flowers: White, 6-10 mm long, formed in dense rounded clusters surrounding the stem at the nodes. Flowers from Summer through to Autumn.

Leaves: Blue/green with a silvery appearance due to fine hairs on top. Woolly underneath. Crinkled, leathery, and rounded, up to 7 cm in diameter. Edge slightly serrated and veins sunken on the upper surface.

Stems: Woody at the base, covered with dense hairs and branched at the top.

Note: Widespread weed of bushland, roadsides and cropping fringes.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Horsetail

Equisetum spp.
(Field Horsetail, Scouring Rush, Snake Bean, Snake Plant)

Description: Erect, non-flowering herb with ribbed/grooved stems to 80 cm long.

Spores: Pale green to yellowish, produced in cones 1-4 cm long produced at the end of fertile stems.

Leaves: Green, in rings of 6-18 on main stems. Sheath 5-8 mm long with teeth 2-3 mm long.

Stems: 2 types (fertile and sterile), both jointed (She-oak like), ribbed/grooved and hollow to 80 cm long. Fertile stems are often shorter, whitish to brown and appear before sterile stem in early spring. Sterile stems are green and appear in late spring.

Roots: Deep growing (up-to several metres long) with dark brown to black wiry rhizomous roots.

Note: Has the ability to spread by spores, rhizomes and tubers. Potential to spread through the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Malvella leprosa
(Alkali Sida, Alkali Mallow)

Description: Semi-erect herb to 30 cm tall with silver/green appearance.

Flowers: 5 petalled and approx 2.5-3.5 cm diameter. Cream-yellow with short stalks in clusters at the end of branches. Flowers in Summer.

Leaves: Short stalked and fan shaped with prominent veins on underside. Soft silvery appearance due to cover of fine hairs.

Stems: Erect or prostrate, slender, light green and covered in fine hairs.

Note: Highly competitive and difficult to kill.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Vine that climbs by twisting its stems around vertical structures, including the trunks and limbs of trees.

Flowers: Creamy white to yellow or occasionally pink, in pairs, 3-7 cm long. Sweetly scented with a double tongue and produced throughout Summer.

Fruit: Globular, dark-blue to black berry with many seeds.

Leaves: Opposite, oval-shaped, 3-7 cm long and 1-3 cm wide. Plant may lose some leaves during winter.

Stems: Young stems are covered with fine hairs, older stems become hollow and have brown bark that peels off in shreds. Stems produce roots at nodes when they contact soil.

Note: Spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Shiny green perennial sedge, 15-40 cm high. Appears in Spring, seeds in Summer and dies-back over Winter.

Flowers: Green knob like spikes 3-5 mm with up to 100 tiny flowers.

Leaves: Stiff and lanceolate, branching in threes from stem nodes.

Stems: Short and stiff ending in knob like florets.

Note: Emerging weed of irrigated pastures. Stock will not readily graze. Smells sweet when crushed.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: A branched fresh water herb that forms tangled mats under the water surface.

Flowers: Inconspicuous, purple, 3 mm across and growing on threads from the leaf axils. Appearing between Spring and early Summer.

Leaves: Stem clasping in tightly grouped spirals at the top and more loosely grouped at the base. Stiff, tapered, 5-20 mm long and curving downwards at the tip.

Stems: Ascending, brittle and branched. Up to 5 m long.

Note: Aggressive weed of reservoirs up to 7 m deep.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with Hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata). Could also be confused with the introduced Elodea canadensis.
Description: A hairless evergreen shrub from 1-1.5 m tall.

Flowers: White, single or in clusters of 2-4 on short stalks. 5 lobes bending backward and tapering at ends. Appear most of the year.

Leaves: Narrow and tapered at both ends with prominent veins.

Stems: Green, erect and smooth.

Fruit: Orange to red globular berry 1-1.5 cm in diameter.

Note: Fruit and plant material are reported to have caused poisoning in stock and humans.

Similar Native Species: There are a number of native Solanum species, whose fruits may resemble Madeira Winterberry. However, the leaves and flowers are dissimilar. Where the leaves and flowers are similar, such as S. esuriale, the colour of the fruit is distinct.
Mesquite

Prosopis spp

Description: Six species or subspecies recognised in Australia. Small tree or shrub, between 1-15 m tall.

Flowers: Yellow cylinder shaped flower spikes 5-10 cm long, clusters of 2-5 at the end of branches. Flowers in Summer.

Leaves: Bright green, consisting of 1-3 segments of 6-18 opposite pairs of leaflets. Leaflets are 5-12 mm long.

Stems: Thick and woody with grey-brown or black bark. Older bark is rough and newer growth smooth. Spikes are present on the main stem and on branches above each leaf stalk.

Fruit: Straw coloured seedpods 10-20 cm long, containing up to 20 hard black seeds.

Note: Invasive and aggressive competitors that exclude other vegetation.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Ipomoea indica
(Blue Dawn Flower, Common Morning Glory, Purple Morning Glory)

Description: Fast-growing climber to 15 m long, forming a dense blanket that smothers other vegetation.

Flowers: Tubular dark-blue to purple, trumpet-shaped to 10 cm and formed between Spring and Autumn.

Leaves: Large, light green, hairy underneath with a heart-shaped base and usually having three lobes. Up to 18 cm long and 16 cm wide on a leaf stalk 2-18 cm long.

Stems: Hairy, climbing or running and producing roots where it touches the ground. Contains white sap.

Roots: Rhizomes, capable of sprouting months after removal from the ground. Stems produce roots at nodes when they contact soil.

Note: Seeds rarely appear in Australia. Spreads from existing plants. Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Erect up to 2.5 m tall, but usually under 1 m. Can be single stemmed or much branched.

Flowers: Inconspicuous, formed in clusters in leaf axils near branch tips. Flowers late Summer.

Leaves: Green and darker on upper surface. Lower leaves opposite and upper leaves alternate. Similar in shape to a maple or grape and up to 15 cm in diameter. Serrated edge and a rough texture. Prominent red/purple veins and stalks.

Stems: Blotched with purple and covered in short, coarse hairs.

Fruit: A hard, woolly, oval shaped burl with numerous spines and 2 prominent beaks on the end. In clusters of 2-13.

Note: A contaminant of wool.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Olea europaea
(Common Olive)

Description: Evergreen tree or bushy shrub from 5-15 m tall.

Flowers: Fragrant, creamy white and 4-5 mm long with 4 lobes. In small clusters throughout Spring.

Fruit: Green, turning purple to black when ripe, 2-2.5 cm long and 1 cm wide containing a hard seed.

Leaves: Opposite, glossy dark green above and silvery below. 3-8 cm long and 1 cm wide.

Stems: Erect, greenish to black and branching with rough bark.

Note: Cultivated for food, a source of oil and wood is used for cabinetwork and furniture.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: A large tussock-forming grass with long narrow drooping leaves.

Flowers: White to pinkish cluster of flowers 30-90 cm long on stems to 4 m tall. Flowers between March and May.

Leaves: Bluish green above and dark green below, 2 m long and 2-4 cm wide tapering to a fine point with serrated edges.

Stems: Erect, hollow, greyish green to yellowish, 2-4 m high and 3 cm wide.

Root: Fibrous rhizomes spreading in clumps to 4 m across and 3 m deep.

Note: Flower plumes are capable of producing 100,000 seeds that can be blown several kilometres. Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Pampas grass is commonly confused with the Common Reed (Phragmites australis).
**Description:** A tough tussock grass that reproduces by seed.

**Flowers:** Dark slate green spikes from 6-20 cm long and 4-7 mm in diameter. Tiny spikelets display 1-2 mm flowers, and occur tightly packed against the primary axis. Occurring in mid to late Summer.

**Leaves:** Slender, dark green and stiff, 6-18 cm long. Growing from the base, Blades are rolled in at the edge.

**Stems:** Erect, dark green and slender, growing to 50 cm long.

**Note:** Tough, unpalatable and highly invasive of pastures. Extremely difficult to control selectively.
Parrot’s Feather

Myriophyllum aquaticum
(Brazilian Water Milfoil, Thread-of-Life)

Description: A bright green aquatic herb that forms vigorous mats of tangled stems.

Flowers: Solitary and rising on short stalks. Petals absent but stigma is prominent bearing fine hairs. Appears between June and September.

Leaves: Bright green and feathery in appearance. In tightly packed whorls at the top becoming further apart towards the base.

Stems: Slender, trailing, yellow/green, up to 5 m long and rooting from nodes at the base.

Note: Readily spreads from stem fragments. Invasive and difficult to control.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with a number of native Myriophyllum species, such as Common Milfoil, M. papillosum.

Undeclared Weed

P
CONTROL OPTIONS

VECTOR OF SPREAD
Parthenium hysterephorus

Description: A branched, pale green, erect herb to 150 cm tall.

Flowers: Flower heads creamy white, 4-10 mm diameter, found in clusters at the top of branches between January and June, depending on conditions.

Leaves: Deeply divided and covered in soft white hairs. Pale green and alternate. Base leaves to 20 cm and stem leaves smaller, all with many segments.

Stems: Erect, branched in the upper half and hairy with vertical grooves.

Note: A prolific seeder and aggressive coloniser producing 15,000 seeds per plant per year. Can cause health problems such as dermatitis and asthma in some people.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Paterson’s Curse

Echium plantagineum
(Salvation Jane, Riverina Bluebell)

Description: Erect, up to 1.2 m tall and covered with coarse hair.

Flowers: Purple (sometimes white or pink), trumpet shaped and 2-3 cm long. Occurring between August and December in curved clusters at the end of branches.

Leaves: Rosette and base leaves broad, paddle-shaped and up to 25 cm long with prominent veins. Stem leaves smaller and clasping stem.

Stems: Usually several rising from the base. Covered with hairy bristles.

Note: Can dominate grazing land and annual pastures. Toxic to some stock in large quantities.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Phalaris spp.
(Canary Grass, Paradoxa Grass, Toowoomba Canary Grass)

Description: Erect, tufted grass 30-150 cm tall and spreading from the base.

Flowers: Cylindrical, spike-like flower head, 1-12 cm long containing numerous spikelets 2-10 mm long and to 6 mm wide. Flowers between November and January.

Leaves: Flat, hairless, stem-clasping and bluish green to 50 cm long and 1.5 cm wide. Mainly at the base forming a clump with some along the stems.

Stems: Erect with visible nodes.

Roots: Branched rhizomes spreading from the base to form a clump.

Note: Although there are several Phalaris species common to the area, P. aquatica is the most common. Palatable to stock when young.

Similar Native Species: Prior to flowering Phalaris resembles a number of other grass species.
Description: An erect perennial growing up to 60 cm tall.

Flowers: Yellow, bell shaped, 2-3 cm in diameter. Made up of 5 petals. Produced in Summer on short stalks from upper leaf axils.

Leaves: Light green, lance shaped with wavy margins. Fine hairs on edges and veins. 4-6 cm long and up to 4 cm wide.

Stems: Branched, spreading, vertically ribbed with very short hairs.

Fruit: An orange berry when ripe, enclosed in a bladder or Chinese lantern like case approx. 2-2.5 cm diameter.

Note: Deep rooted and difficult to control.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
**Senecio jacobaea**  
(St James Wort, Tansy Ragwort)

Description: Short-lived, can flower twice a year producing 250,000 seeds from a mature plant.

Flowers: Bright yellow in colour. In large clusters at the end of the branches. Each flower head is 2.5 cm in diameter with 12-15 petals surrounding it.

Leaves: Can range from dark green with few hairs to pale green, with a downy appearance. Rosette leaves can grow up to 35 cm long. Stem leaves shorter and more wrinkled.

Stems: Can grow either single or several stems from the crown. Branched at the top of the stem. Purple or reddish at the base near the crown.

Note: Causes death in stock due to liver damage. Seeds can remain viable for 8-16 years.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: A floating mat-forming aquatic fern, with slender branching rhizomes occurring just below the water surface.

Leaves: Submerged brown leaves, deeply divided on stalks, ending in hairy root-like filaments. Emergent green, oval, smooth edged and short stalked leaves. In pairs 1-5 cm wide. Top of leaves are covered with fine waxy hairs that make it water repellent.

Stems: Slender, jointed and branched to 30 cm long.

Note: Forms dense mats that restricts water flow, hinders recreational use and reduces oxygen. Reproduces entirely from vegetation fragments. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Not likely to be confused with native species, though from a distance an infestation covering a pond may look like Azolla.
Description: A hardy plant, often forming a mass of tangled vegetation that covers the surface of either flowing or marshy water bodies.

Flowers: White florets that are grouped into heads of up to 2 cm in diameter at the end of a branching stem. Appearing between Spring and Summer.

Leaves: Elongated to oval shaped, dark green, 5-20 cm long 2.5-5 cm wide with a slight wavy shape.

Stems: Erect at first, later becoming prostrate and scrambling. Hollow and buoyant when in water and growing from 1-1.5 m long to 1-2 cm wide when mature.

Note: A large plant can easily impede water flow in a creek. Can grow from both seeds and vegetatively through broken stem fragments.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with knotweeds (Persicaria spp.) when immature and without flowers.
**Serrated Tussock**

**Nassella trichotoma**  
(Nassella Tussock, Yass River Tussock)

Description: Tussock grass up to 50 cm tall and 25 cm wide at base.

Flowers: Tiny, inconspicuous and found at the end of open branched panicles (flower heads) up to 35 cm long. Originally purple and turning straw coloured. Flowers in Summer.

Leaves: Many, tightly rolled, up to 50 cm long and emerging from the base. Finely serrated, green but becoming bleached as they mature.

Stems: Up to 1 m, erect but becoming droopy. Flower heads bear at the end of stems.

Note: Unpalatable, invasive and a prolific seeder (approx. 100,000 seeds per plant). Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Spear grasses (Austrastipa spp.).
Description: Deciduous tree growing to 12 m high.

Flowers: Catkins (clusters of small flowers) 5-10 cm long. Unfertilised female flowers turn into white ‘fluff’ and travel in the wind. Appears between October and February.

Leaves: 5-10 cm long with 3-5 lobes, bluish green on top and white underneath turning bright yellow in Autumn.

Stems: Single main stem with silvery white bark. Often sends up numerous suckers forming dense thickets.

Roots: Suckering is stimulated when soil is disturbed, damaging roots.

Note: Male flowering trees not yet recorded in Australia. Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Erect, Summer growing herb, from 30-80 cm tall.

Flowers: Purple, occasionally white, to 3.5 cm diameter. 5 fused petals with 5 prominent yellow anthers. Occurring in late Spring-Summer.

Leaves: Silvery green due to dense covering of hairs. Lance shaped, to 15 cm long, with wavy margins and prickles along underside veins.

Stems: Erect, much branched and covered in fine hairs and numerous fine red prickles.

Fruit: Smooth, round berries, which start out green with darker markings and turn orange on maturing.

Note: Deep rooted and very hardy weed of Summer crops and pastures.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Solanum species including Quena S. esuriale.
Description: An erect spreading grass to 60 cm tall.

Flowers: A spike like head 3-8 cm long, contains up to 40 burrs, each made of 4 florets covered with spines. Spines fine and purple tinged. Appears between December and April.

Leaves: To 20 cm long and 5-8 mm wide, smooth but sometimes twisted and finely serrated.

Stems: Erect or spreading. Several slightly flattened stems produced from the base. May form new roots from nodes where they touch soil.

Note: Spikes cause discomfort to people and stock and contaminate wool.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect pointed tussock, 1-2 m tall.

Flowers: Dark green to rusty brown, small and in clusters near the top of stems. Appear all year round but largely in Summer.

Leaves: Dark green, cylindrical, unbranched, 3-5 mm in diameter and many rising from the crown. Tapered to a sharp spike.

Stems: Very similar to the leaves, except they bear flower clusters near the top.

Note: Invades poorer soils especially along drainage lines. Commonly harbour rabbits or foxes.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with a number of native Juncus species, as well as other rush species such as Baumea spp.
Hypericum perforatum
(Goatweed, Klamath Weed)

Description: An erect herb 80-120 cm tall.
Flowers: Bright yellow, 2-2.5 cm wide with 5 petals. In clusters at the end of upper branches. Tiny black dots along margins. Occurring between late Spring and Summer.
Fruit: 3-celled capsule, 5-10 mm long with many seeds.
Leaves: Green, lighter underneath in opposite pairs 1.5-3 cm long. Numerous small oil glands give a perforated appearance when the leaf is held up to the light.
Stems: Several woody, reddish, with two ridges and dark glands. Branched towards the top.
Note: May cause “photosensitisation” in stock.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Hypericum species, such as Matted St. John’s wort (H. japonicum) or Small St. John’s wort (H. gramineum).
Description: Erect, branching herb to 1 m tall.

Flowers: Yellow, 1-1.5 cm wide, in clusters at the end of upper branches with 5 petals. Tiny black dots along the edges. Occurring between late Spring and Summer.

Fruit: 3-celled capsule, 5-10 mm long with many seeds.

Leaves: Opposite, stem-clasping, light green, to 3 cm long with visible veins and black dots along the edges.

Stems: Prostrate at base becoming erect, green to reddish brown with tiny black dots (glands). Branched, almost square with wings along the edges.

Roots: Numerous rhizomes producing new plants.

Note: Differs from St John’s wort by having a square stem and prostrate stems at the base.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Hypericum species, such as Matted St. John’s wort (H. japonicum) or Small St. John’s wort (H. gramineum).
**Description:** Erect, thorny and woody shrub to 3 m tall.

**Flowers:** Pink or white, 2.5-4 cm in diameter and formed in loose clusters at the end of branches. 5 heart-shaped petals. Appear in Spring.

**Leaves:** Consist of 2-4 pairs of oval leaflets each 1-4 cm long. Margins serrated and slightly hairy. Hairy underneath.

**Stems:** Smooth when young but becoming rougher. Arched towards the top and bearing many curved thorns. Many stems from one base.

**Fruit:** Oval berry or “hip”, green then red when mature. 2 cm long with small spikes especially at the stem end.

**Note:** Invades edges of watercourses and farm fringe areas.

**Similar Native Species:** Unlikely to be confused with native species, though may be confused with cultivated Rose species.
Description: Deciduous tree to 30 m tall.

Flowers: Tiny yellow flowers hanging in clusters 7-12 cm long.

Fruit: Winged, in pairs, 2-5 cm long and dispersed by wind and water. Appears in early Autumn.

Leaves: Coarse, opposite, dark green above and pale below, 7-15 cm wide with 5 lobes and a serrated edge. Some varieties produce reddish brown leaves when young, turning dark green when mature.

Stems: Greenish brown when young, turning greyish brown and scaly on mature stems.

Note: Often spread by the careless disposal of garden waste.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Cynara cardunculus
(Wild Artichoke, Cardoon)

Description: A spiky erect herb to 2 m tall.

Flowers: Purple to blue in 7-13 cm heads at the end of stems. Surrounded by stiff spines. Flowers during Summer.

Leaves: Grey-green and tending towards white underneath due to a thick covering of fine hairs. Base leaves up to 90 cm long but shorter towards the top. Deeply toothed with each tooth ending with a sharp spine.

Stems: Erect, strongly ribbed and covered in hairs. Up to 2 m tall and usually 1-8 stems per plant.

Note: Will generally colonise waste areas and weaker pastures. Spread mainly by seed.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect, branched perennial to 90 cm tall.

Flowers: Golden yellow heads 2.5-4 cm in diameter on leaf axils. Heads surrounded by short spines. Appearing between Spring and Summer.

Leaves: Green with light coloured veins and markings. Leaves contain a milky sap. Deeply divided with stout spines on tips. Base of leaves make wings down the stem. Lower leaves to 30 cm long.

Stems: Erect, usually several arising from a single crown. Much branched and covered with fine hairs.

Note: Ferocious spines make dense stands almost impenetrable.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect annual or biennial growing to 1.6 m tall.

Flowers: Pink, red, purple or occasionally white. Formed in drooping solitary heads at the end of branches surrounded by stiff spines. 4-8 cm in diameter and covered in a fine down. Occur between Spring and Summer.

Leaves: Green, rosette leaves up to 50 cm long with spikes around the margins. Pale toothed margins and pale prominent mid veins. Stem leaves smaller, deeply toothed, stem clasping with wings running down the stem from the leaf base.

Stems: Erect, winged and downy or cobwebby. Branched towards the top.

Note: Forms dense unpalatable stands. Competes with pastures.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Thistle - Saffron

Carthamus lanatus
(False Star Thistle, Woolly Safflower, Distaff Thistle)

Description: Erect, spiny, up to 1 m tall.

Flowers: Yellow or cream with faint red or black lines. Solitary heads at the end of branches and surrounded by sharp spiky bracts. Occurring between November and December.

Leaves: Lower leaves deeply toothed, 20 cm long and stem clasping. Stem leaves alternate and stiff with vicious spikes. Prominently veined and sometimes downy on upper surface.

Stems: Straw coloured, rigid and ribbed. Single stem branched at the top.

Note: Contributes to contamination of wool.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Erect annual plant, with spiny leaves and stems and has a stout taproot.

Flowers: Slender pink or purple flower heads surrounded by rows of spines. Usually in groups of 2 or 3. Appears between March and September.

Leaves: Rosette leaves are slightly woolly, particularly on lower surface.

Stems: Spiny green stems, branched and may have single or multiple stems from the base.

Note: C.pycnocephalus often has visible white patches along veins at the base of spines (never in C.tenuiflorus).

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Thistle - Spear

Cirsium vulgare

(Bull Thistle, Black Spear Thistle, Scotch Thistle, Swamp Thistle)

Description: An erect annual or biennial thistle up to 1.2 m tall.

Flowers: Pinkish purple, 3-5 cm spiky heads either solitary or small clusters at the end of branches. Flowering between late Spring and Autumn.

Leaves: Rough and hairy. Dark on upper side, lighter and hairier underneath. Deeply toothed with spiky margins. Base leaves to 35 cm and stalked, stem leaves to 25 cm and clasping the stem.

Stems: Branched towards the top, hairy and spiky.

Note: Readily colonises disturbed or overgrazed areas.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect annual or short lived perennial thistle, to 75 cm tall.

Flowers: Bright yellow on oval shaped heads 1-1.5 cm long. Solitary at the end of branches and surrounded by sharp golden spines. Flowers between late Spring and Summer.

Leaves: Silver/green due to a covering of downy hairs. Lower leaves deeply toothed, 20 cm long. Upper leaves narrow, 5 cm long and clasping the stem, forming wings running downwards.

Stems: Branched, downy, winged and without spikes.

Note: Competes with, and restricts the growth of pastures and crops.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: An erect bushy annual or biennial growing to 1 m tall.

Flowers: Flower heads purple, occasionally white or pink. Surrounded by sharp spines. Occurring singly at the end of branches between Spring and early Summer.

Leaves: Dark green, hairy and without spines. Lower leaves deeply lobed and up to 25 cm long. Upper leaves much smaller, clasping stem and lance shaped.

Stems: Many straggly branches, pale and hairy when young, becoming smooth.

Note: Competes with crops and pastures and may harbour pest animals.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Onopordum acaulon
(Flat Thistle, Horse Nettle)

Description: A prostrate annual or sometimes biennial, which reproduces by seed.

Flowers: White to purple in 6 cm heads, clustered in the centre of plants. Each head surrounded by many spiny bracts. Occurring in Spring.

Leaves: Arranged in a large rosette. Silvery and woolly to 40 cm long, on short stalks. Deeply toothed and spiky along edges.

Stems: Absent.

Note: Flat form crowds out large areas of pasture.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Beginning bushy, but becoming an erect thistle to 2.5 m tall.

Flowers: Purple, in large heads to 13 cm in diameter and surrounded by sharp spines. Solitary at the end of branches. Flowering between October and December.

Leaves: Shiny green with white blotches and markings, duller and hairy underneath. Lower leaves to 60 cm long, wavy with spiky margins. Upper leaves smaller and stiffer.

Stems: Stout, hollow or pith filled, ribbed and usually branched.

Note: Very competitive in highly fertile pastures.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Erect bushy annual or perennial to 1.5 m tall.

Flowers: White, pink to purple, trumpet shaped to 20 cm long. Growing singly from forks of branches. Flowers between Spring and Summer.

Leaves: Alternate, to 35 cm long and oval or broadly triangular. Wavy margins and prominent veins. Unpleasant odour when crushed.

Stems: Erect, green (but sometimes purple tinged), forked and slightly hairy.

Fruit: Capsule 2-5 cm in diameter with stout spines splitting into 4 segments.

Note: Three species declared in Victoria but all have similar characteristics. Most common is D. stramonium or Common Thorn apple. All parts poisonous to humans and some stock.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Regionally Controlled Weed

Tutsan

Hypericum androsaemum
(Sweet Amber)

Description: Erect shrub 1-1.5 m tall.

Flowers: Yellow, 2-3 cm in diameter, in clusters at the ends of branches, with 5 petals and numerous stamens. Flowers between Spring and Summer.

Fruit: Globular, 3-celled berry to 8 mm in diameter, changes from green to red to black as it matures.

Leaves: Opposite, stem clasping, green with a reddish appearance in Autumn and to 10 cm long.

Stems: Several reddish stems emerging from a woody base with 2 opposite ridges or wings along the stems.

Roots: Several shallow roots to 30 cm deep.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with native Hypericum species, such as Matted St. John’s wort (H. japonicum) or Small St. John’s wort (H. gramineum).
Description: Erect floating weed forming dense mats.

Flowers: Bluish/purple, funnel shaped end and 4-7 cm in diameter with six petals. One petal has a yellow patch surrounded by dark purple. Usually about 8 cm wide growing on a short stalk between mid Summer and Autumn.

Fruit: A narrow 3 celled capsule approximately 1-1.5 cm long.

Leaves: Glossy green. Some 6 cm long, narrow and erect. Others almost round, 3 cm wide and curved upward. Stalks to 5 cm long with bladder-like swelling to enable floating.

Stems: Can be erect to 6 cm long and bearing flowers, or lateral and producing new plants.

Note: Extremely invasive and rapid growing weed that chokes waterways and undermines native ecosystems.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Wild Garlic

Allium vineale
(Crow Garlic, Field Garlic, Wild Onion)

Description: An erect, strong smelling bulb, up to 1 m tall.

Flowers: White, pink or greenish, on short stalks formed in terminal heads.

Leaves: Slender, cylindrical, hollow and becoming channelled on one side. Emerging from lower part of stem.

Stems: Erect, cylindrical, unbranched, sheathed for part of its length.

Bulbil (small bulbs): Brown, smooth and shiny.

Notes: Strong odour taints milk if grazed and cereal crops when harvested.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Deciduous, large and upright tree to 20 m tall.

Flowers: Drooping catkins (clusters of small flowers), 4-6 cm long and produced in Spring. Separate male and female flowers.

Leaves: Green, alternate, long and narrow with a toothed edge, 5-15 cm long and 0.5-1.5 cm wide.

Stems: Single trunked tree with rough bark. Shiny and reddish brown when young.

Note: Spreads easily from stem fragments and can restrict water flows. Both male and female trees found in Australia. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Deciduous, spreading shrub or small tree with multiple stems and a rounded crown to 15 m tall.

Flowers: Drooping catkins (clusters of small flowers) 4-6 cm long produced in Spring.

Leaves: Alternate, shiny, dark green above and bluish-green below, narrow with a toothed edge, 9-15 cm long and 1-3 cm wide.

Stems: Multi-stemmed with an irregular shaped crown.

Note: Spreads easily from stem fragments and can restrict water flows. Only male trees found in Australia but can cross with other Salix spp. to produce seed. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Willow - Grey Sallow

Salix cinerea
(Grey Willow, Wild Pussy Willow)

Description: Deciduous and large spreading shrub or small tree to 10 m tall.

Flowers: Male catkins (clusters of small flowers) erect, golden and hairy to 3 cm long. Female catkins green, drooping to 6 cm long and produced in Spring on separate trees.

Leaves: Broad, dark green, hairy both sides, 7-10 cm long and 3-4 cm wide with a toothed edge.

Stems: Single trunked with several main branches appearing just above ground level. Rounded crown.

Note: Reproduces mainly by seed. Both male and female trees found in Australia. Weed of National Significance.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
Description: Deciduous, single trunked tree with weeping form and 10-15 m tall.

Flowers: Drooping catkins (clusters of small flowers) 3-4 cm long appearing in early Spring.

Leaves: Yellowish green, alternate, long and narrow with a toothed edge, 8-15 cm long and 1-2.5 cm wide.

Stems: Drooping, slender, smooth, light green to pale yellowish-brown with greyish brown bark.

Note: Spreads easily from stem fragments and can restrict water flows. Only female trees found in Australia.

Similar Native Species: Unlikely to be confused with native species.
**Yellow Water Lily**

**Nymphaea mexicana**  
(Mexican Water Lily)

Description: Perennial aquatic with floating leaves and flowers arising from rhizomes.

Flowers: Showy yellow flowers, 10-20 cm wide, produced between Spring to Autumn.

Leaves: Round or heart-shaped to 25 cm diameter on stalks. Young leaves often have brown markings.

Stems: Creeping horizontal stems (stolons) that can produce roots from each node.

Roots: Rhizomes to 30 cm long and 4 cm thick.

Note: Rhizomes greater than 30 cm long and 4 cm thick have been recorded.

Similar Native Species: Could be confused with a number of native and other introduced water lilies prior to flowering.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aaron's Rod</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer negundo</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acer pseudoplatanus</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acroptilon repens</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
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<td>55</td>
</tr>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alkali Sida</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>Alligator Weed</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allium vineale</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angel's Trumpet</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternanthera philoxeroides</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsinckia</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aniseed</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrowhead</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arum Lily</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash-leaved Maple</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asparagus asparagoides</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axonopus affinis</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basket Willow</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathurst Burr</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beggar Vine</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bindii</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bindweed</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Knapweed</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Spear Thistle</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanket Weed</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Dawn Flower</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Periwinkle</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boer Lovegrass</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boxthorn</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazilian Water Milfoil</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briar Rose</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal Creeper</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal Veil Creeper</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckthorn</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull Thistle</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burrgrass</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage Thistle</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabomba</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabomba caroliniana</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
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<td>Cats Head</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calla Lily</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Californian Burr</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caltrop</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camelthorn</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camel Thorn Bush</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canary Broom</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canary Grass</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canary Ivy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Broom</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Gooseberry</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Tulip</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardaria draba</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardoon</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carduus nutans</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carduus tenuiflorus</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carduus pycnocephalus</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carthamus lanatus</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carolina Fanwort</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpet Grass</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caspian Manna</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castor Bean Plant</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castor Oil Plant</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centaurea calcitrapa</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centaurea nigra</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centaurea solstitialis</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Page No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilean Needle-grass</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Lantern</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirsium vulgare</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Ivy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Morning Glory</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Olive</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Pampas Grass</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convolvulus arvensis</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyza albida</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conyza bonariensis</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crotalaria selloana</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crataegus monogyna</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creeping Knapweed</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crow Garlic</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuscuta spp.</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynara cardunculus</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyperus brevifolius</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytilus scoparius</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datura spp.</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Lily</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Arrowhead</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dense Waterweed</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Ash</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distaff Thistle</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dodder</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echium plantagenium</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egeria</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egeria densa</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eichhornia crassipes</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Broom</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Ivy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equisetum spp.</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eragrostis curvula</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Capsicum</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Star Thistle</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feather Grass</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Featherhead Grass</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fennel</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Bindweed</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Burr</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Garlic</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Horsetail</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat Thistle</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flannel Leaf</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleabane</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foeniculum vulgare</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foxtail</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus angustifolia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Flower</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furze</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymgrass</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genista</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genista monospessulana</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gentle Annie</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Elodea</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant Salvinia</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats Head</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goatweed</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold and Silver Flower</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Dodder</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Gorse</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Star Thistle</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorse</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Maple</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Mullein</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Periwinkle</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Willow</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grev Tree</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gindagai Thistle</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Fleabane</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Horseweed</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall’s Honeysuckle</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardhead Thistle</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardheads</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Page No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedera helix</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary Cress</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoary Pepperwort</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horehound</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Nettle</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horsetail</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypericum androsaemum</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypericum perforatum</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypericum tetrameratum</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innocent Weed</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipomoea Indica</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Thistle</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy-leaf Sida</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese Honeysuckle</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem Cherry</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juncus acutus</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalmath Weed</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kylinga</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady’s Thistle</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagarosiphon</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagarosiphon major</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy Elodea</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily of the Nile</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonicera japonica</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-style Feather Grass</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lycium feroxissimum</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maderia Wintercherry</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malvella leprosa</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple Weed</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marrumbium vulgare</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mesquite</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican Waterlily</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Thistle</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montpellier Broom</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraea flaccida</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraea miniata</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Glory</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullumbimbry Couch</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myriophyllum aquaticum</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrow Leaf Ash</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassella neesiana</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassella Tussock</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nassella trichotoma</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noogoora Burr</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nymphaea mexicana</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O lea europaea</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O live</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O noppordum acaulon</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O xygen Weed</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palma Christi</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pampas Grass</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradoxa Grass</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parramatta Grass</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrots Feather</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parthenium hysterophorus</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parthenium Weed</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson’s Curse</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennisetum villosum</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periwinkle</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phalaris</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phalaris spp</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physalis viscosa</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickerel Weed</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig Lily</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth Thistle</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pondweed</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus alba</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie G round Cherry</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosopis spp</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Morning Glory</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Star Thistle</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Sycamore</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pussy Willow</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Page No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ragwort</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rats Tail Grass</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricinus communis</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverina Bluebell</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa rubiginosa</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Conyza</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubus fruticosus</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Knapweed</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagitaria</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagitaria graminea</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix babylonica</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix cinerea</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix fragilis</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix nigra</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Jane</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvinia</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvinia molesta</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbur</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scolymus hispanicus</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotch Thistle</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouring Rush</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senecio jacobaea</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal Tea</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serrated Tussock</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep Thistle</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Pampas Grass</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Poplar</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver-leaved Poplar</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverleaf Nightshade</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silybum marianum</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Similax</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slender Arrowhead</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake Bean</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake Plant</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solanum elaeagnifolium</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solanum pseudocapsicum</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorcerer’s Violet</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spadeleaf Plant</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Salsify</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Burr Grass</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Rush</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporobolus africansanum</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square-stemmed St John’s Wort</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St James Wort</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John’s Wort</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Peter’s Wort</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Thistle</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Amber</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Anise</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Briar</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore Maple</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tansy Ragwort</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tar Weed</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tass River Grass</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple Plant</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Artichoke</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Golden</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Nodding</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Saffron</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Slender/Shore</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Spear</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - St Barnaby’s</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Star</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Stemless</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thistle - Variegated</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorn Apple</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thread-of-life</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubulus terrestris</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato Weed</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toowoomba Canary Grass</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutsan</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulex europaeus</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Velvet Dock</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbascum thapsus</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Index

Name.................. Page No.
Vinca..............................18
Vinca major....................18
Water Fern......................62
Water Hyacinth..................85
Water Orchid....................85
Wavy-Leaf Fleabane............37
Weeping Lovegrass.............9
White Horehound...............43
White Horse Nettle...........66
White Poplar....................65
White Top.......................42
White Weed.....................42
Whitlow Pepperwort....42
Wild Artichoke...............73
Wild Garlic.....................86
Wild Onion......................86
Wild Pussy Willow...........89
Wild Rose......................71
Willow - Black.................87
Willow - Crack................88
Willow - Grey Sallow........89
Willow - Weeping.............90
Winged St John's Wort........70
Winged Slender Thistle......77
Wolly Safflower............76
Xanthium spinosum..........14
Xanthium strumarium........52
Yellow Burr Weed.............11
Yellow Centaurea.............79
Yellow Gromwell..............11
Yellow Star Weed.............79
Yellow Vine....................23
Yellow Water Lily...........91
Zantedeschia aethiopica ....13
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