



Are your garden plants going bush? Many common garden plants can invade our bushland and recreation areas in the ACT and region

When does a garden plant become a weed?

Weeds are plants growing in locations where they are not desirable or wanted. Many commonly grown garden plants have already spread from the confines of our yards, ponds and aquariums into rural, natural and open space areas causing environmental damage and requiring expensive control actions. These plants are referred to as 'garden escapes'.

Garden escapes include natives that have been planted outside their natural range, but most are plants which have been introduced from overseas. Some garden escapes are already well established in natural areas, but others are in the early stages of invasion and could become widespread unless we stop them now.

This edition of Are your garden plants going bush? brochure has included a number of garden plants in the early stages of invasion. There are large environmental benefits from raising awareness of weeds in the early stages of invasion and it is much less costly to control such weeds before they become widespread.

How do garden escapes spread?

Most garden escapes invade our open space and natural areas by the spread of seed. Your garden may be a major source of garden escapes which are being spread without you realising it. Birds can spread seeds in their droppings after eating the fruit from berry-producing plants like privet and cotoneaster species. Wind and water also

disperse seeds. Some garden escapes establish and reproduce from stems, bulbs or corms after being dumped as garden waste on roadsides, parkland or bushland.

Weed Swap Program

The Australian Native Plants Society and the ACT Government offer a free Weed Swap program twice a year in spring and autumn. You can dig up your garden escapes and swap them for a non-invasive native plant.

Control methods

Most weeds included in this brochure can be controlled by hand pulling, digging out or cutting down. Registered herbicides are available for spraying leaves or painting stumps. Visit the NSW Weedwise Website and app for advice on control.

It is important to dispose of garden waste in a way that does not spread weeds further. Seed-free foliage can be safely composted or delivered to green recycle centres. Seed heads, bulbs, corms and stems that regrow should be solarised — place in a robust dark plastic bag, seal and leave in a sunny area for several months. Then place the bag in another tough plastic bag and seal for disposal.

Alternatives for garden escapes

An important part of preventing garden escapes from invading our bushland and recreation space is to remove those plants with the potential to escape from your garden and replace them with plants that do not pose a problem.

Further information

Access Canberra: 13 22 81

ACT Parks and Conservation Service Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate: www.environment.act.gov.au

Australian Native Plants Society: www.nativeplants-canberra.asn.au

PO Box 217 Civic Square ACT 2608

NSW Weedwise: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Canberra Nature Map: www.canberranaturemap.org

Weeds of the South-east; an identification guide for Australia, Third Edition by FJ Richardson, RG Richardson and RCH Shepherd

What you can do

- Make your garden 'Bush Friendly' by removing from your garden, any plants named in this brochure
- Encourage friends and neighbours to do likewise
- Join your local ParkCare or Landcare group to assist in a united effort to control garden escapes in your area
- Do not dump garden prunings or refuse on roadsides, open spaces or in parkland areas
- Take care not to spread plants via seeds in compost or mulch
- Never dump aquarium or pond plants in waterways or drains

Aquatic herbs

Parrot's feather

Species: *Myriophyllum aquaticum*

Family: Haloragaceae

Origin: South America

Dispersal: vegetatively and from aquarium escape

Invades: rivers, wetlands and lakes

Sagittaria

Species: *Sagittaria platyphylla*

Family: Alismataceae

Origin: USA

Dispersal: mainly by seed

Invades: lakes, reservoirs and ponds

Salvinia

Species: *Salvinia molesta*

Family: Salviniaceae

Origin: South America

Dispersal: vegetatively spread by water and aquarium escape

Invades: rivers and wetlands

Cabomba

Species: *Cabomba caroliniana*

Family: Cabombaceae

Origin: North America

Dispersal: by vegetative parts

Invades: rivers, wetlands and irrigation channels

Water hyacinth

Species: *Eichhornia crassipes*

Family: Pontederiaceae

Origin: South America

Dispersal: by vegetative parts

Invades: rivers, wetlands and irrigation channels

Not the only ones

The pictured species included in this brochure are not the only problem plants in the Canberra region. The following plants are also garden escapes.

Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*)

Common pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Black alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)

Nettle tree (*Celtis australis*)

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)

Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*)

White poplar (*Populus alba*)

Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*)

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)

False acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

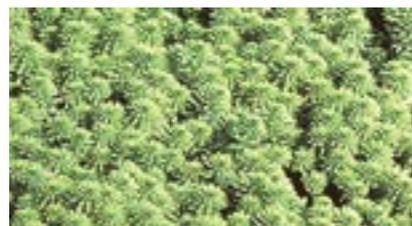
Willows *Salix* species

Box elder (*Acer negundo*)

Laurustinus (*Viburnum tinus*)

Small leaf privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

All Cotoneaster species *Cotoneaster* sp.



Alligator Weed

Species: *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

Family: Amaranthaceae

Origin: South America

Dispersal: vegetative parts spread by water, wildlife and by people.

Sometimes mistaken for the garden plant Mukunuwenna

Invades: rivers, wetlands and irrigation channels



Creepers and Climbers

Bridal creeper

Species: *Asparagus asparagoides*

Family: Asparagaceae

Origin: South Africa

Dispersal: berries eaten by birds and spread in their droppings, also by roots spreading

Invades: vigorous smothering climber that has the potential to invade woodland areas



English ivy

Species: *Hedera helix*

Family: Araliaceae

Origin: Europe

Dispersal: by birds and vegetatively from dumped garden refuse

Invades: dry forest, heathland, river corridors and neighbours' gardens



Moth plant

Species: *Araujia sericifera*

Family: Apocynaceae

Origin: Brazil and Peru

Dispersal: seed has tufts of long white silky hairs, contained within a large choko-like fruit. Wind and water dispersed

Invades: forest margins, waterways and disturbed areas



Bluebell creeper

Species: *Billardiera heterophylla*

Family: Pittosporaceae

Origin: native to south-western Australia

Dispersal: seed eaten by birds and other animals; shoots from underground rootstock

Invades: grassy woodlands, sclerophyll forests, shrublands, lowland grasslands, riparian areas and heaths



Japanese honeysuckle

Species: *Lonicera japonica*

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Origin: Eastern Asia

Dispersal: by birds and vegetatively from dumped garden refuse

Invades: moist sites in forests, woodlands, gullies and neighbours' gardens



Blue periwinkle

Species: *Vinca major*

Family: Apocynaceae

Origin: Mediterranean

Dispersal: vegetatively from dumped garden refuse

Invades: moist forest gullies and neighbours' gardens



Shrubs and trees

Chinese pistachio

Species: *Pistacia chinensis*

Family: Anacardiaceae

Origin: native to central and western China

Dispersal: berries eaten by birds and spread via their droppings

Invades: woodlands and forests



Broad-leaf privet

Species: *Ligustrum lucidum*

Family: Oleaceae

Origin: China and Japan

Dispersal: berries eaten by birds

Invades: moist sites and river corridors



Firethorn

Species: *Pyracantha* species

Family: Rosaceae

Origin: South-western China to Eurasia

Dispersal: by birds

Invades: forests, woodlands and parklands



African olive

Species: *Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidate*

Family: oleaceae

Origin: south-west Africa

Dispersal: fruits are eaten by birds and spread via their droppings

Invades: dry disturbed forest and shrublands and bare land. Forms dense, long-lived monocultures, preventing establishment of native seedlings. It is considered an ecosystem transformer



Oregon grape

Species: *Berberis aquifolium*

Family: Berberidaceae

Origin: native to North America

Dispersal: berries to 10mm long and rhizomes

Invades: a suckering clump-forming shrub that invades forests and woodlands



Spanish heath

Species: *Erica lusitanica*

Family: Ericaceae

Origin: Mediterranean

Dispersal: by seed

Invades: forests and damper sites in woodlands. Looks very similar to a native heath plant



Spanish lavender

Species: *Lavandula stoechas*

Family: Lamiaceae

Origin: Mediterranean region

Dispersal: prolific seeder

Invades: woodlands and forests



Spanish broom

Species: *Spartium junceum*

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Mediterranean

Dispersal: spread by ants, water, machinery, vehicles and soil

Invades: dry forests



English Broom

Species: *Cytisus scoparius*

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Europe

Dispersal: seed spread by machinery, water, animals and people

Invades: river corridors, dry forests and woodlands



Cape broom

Species: *Genista monspessulana*

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: Europe and Mediterranean

Dispersal: seed spread by machinery, water, animals and people

Invades: dry forest and woodland



Rowan

Species: *Sorbus aucuparia*

Family: Rosaceae

Origin: Western Asia, Eastern and Southern Europe and North Africa

Dispersal: by birds and suckers

Invades: woodlands and river corridors



Large-leaf cotoneaster

Species: *Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*

Family: Rosaceae

Origin: China

Dispersal: berries eaten by birds

Invades: forests, woodlands and parklands



Butterfly bush

Species: *Buddleja davidii*

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Origin: China and Japan

Dispersal: fruit

Invades: roadsides, wasteland, disturbed areas and conservation areas



Herbs and grasses

Fountain grass

Species: *Cenchrus setaceus*

Family: Poaceae

Origin: Africa to temperate Asia

Dispersal: wind-dispersed seed

Invades: an emerging environmental weed in the Canberra region



Mexican feather grass

Species: *Nassella tenuissima*

Family: Poaceae

Origin: central and southern North America and South America

Dispersal: seed

Invades: dry and wet forests, woodlands, grasslands and heathlands



Freesia

Species: *Freesia hybrid*

Family: Iridaceae

Origin: South Africa

Dispersal: seed and corms (short and fleshy swollen stem base, usually underground). Spread by movement of seed and contaminated soil.

Invades: not only spreads into disturbed areas but increasingly into bushland



Golden bamboo

Species: *Phyllostachys aurea*

Family: Poaceae

Origin: China

Dispersal: vegetatively from dumped garden refuse, running rhizomes

Invades: a wide variety of plant communities and neighbours gardens



Sacred bamboo

Species: *Nandina domestica*

Family: Berberidaceae

Origin: Eastern Asia

Dispersal: red berries are spread by birds

Invades: woodland and conservation areas



Pink pampas grass

Species: *Cortaderia jubata*

Family: Poaceae

Origin: South America

Dispersal: seed

Invades: a wide range of vegetation types



Gazania

Species: *Gazania linearis*

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: Southern Africa

Dispersal: Mostly from short underground stems, and by seed

Invades: a wide range of vegetation types and disturbed areas. Emerging weed in the Canberra region.



South African daisy

Species: *Dimorphotheca ecklonis*

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: South Africa

Dispersal: seed dispersed by wind or water

Invades: reserves adjacent to urbanised areas



Winged everlasting

Species: *Ammobium alatum*

Family: Asteraceae

Origin: an Australian native to areas outside of the ACT

Dispersal: seed

Invades: emerging environmental weed outside its natural range



Red valerian

Species: *Centranthus ruber* subsp. *ruber*

Family: Caprifoliaceae

Origin: Mediterranean

Dispersal: seed

Invades: readily escapes from urban gardens to woodland and conservation areas



Tricolor harlequin flower

Species: *Sparaxis tricolor*

Family: Iridaceae

Origin: South Africa

Dispersal: bulbs and bulbils

Invades: roadsides, grasslands and reserves

