

North East Arnhem Region

Weeds and restricted plants in towns and communities

Produced by the North East Arnhem Region Weeds Group

The purpose of this handbook is to educate the community about invasive plants that pose serious risk to the natural environments of North East Arnhem Land. Each of the plants listed in this handbook have proven to be invasive here or in similar climates and environments elsewhere in Northern Australia.

The consequences of allowing invasive plants to persist, is that they are highly likely to escape the confines of towns and communities and spread into natural bushland. If not controlled, their spread will continue, which will contribute to a loss of biodiversity and degradation of natural systems.

It is envisioned that this handbook will be used by property owners, managers and tenants. It serves as a guide for weed management activities as part of routine property maintenance.

For details of correct control techniques, see the rear of this guide.

The classification of weeds used in this guide are:

- **Class A** - eradicate—NT Weeds Act declared weed
- **Class B** - control —NT Weeds Act declared weed
- **Class C** - prevent entry —NT Weeds Act declared weed
- **Environmental weed**— a plant that is a declared weed in other states and/or has known invasive potential
- **WONS**—Weed of National Significance as declared by Commonwealth Government



Trees



African Tulip *Spathodea campanulata* Environmental weed

Forms large tree, and spreads root suckers large distances from the main tree. Also spreads from wind borne seeds. Found to be toxic to native bees.



Ardisia *Ardisia humilis* Environmental weed

Forms small to medium tree. Seeds distributed by birds



Clumping Fishtail Palm *Caryota mitis* Environmental weed

Large invasive palm due to seed dispersal by birds and bats



Coffee Bush *Leucaena leucocephala* Environmental weed

Medium size tree, forms dense thickets. Excludes all other vegetation



Fig trees *Ficus spp.* Native and exotic tree species

Native trees but have root systems that damage infrastructure and block pipes etc.



Gmelina *Gmelina arborea* Environmental weed.

Grows to large tree, which readily drops limbs. Spreads by seed dispersal.



Golden Shower *Cassia fistula* Environmental weed

Grows to medium size tree, invades bushland through seed dispersal



Mahogany *Khaya senegalensis* Environmental weed

Grows to large tree. Has damaging roots and prone to falling over with cyclones



Neem *Azadirachta indica* Class B weed

Grows into large tree. Invasive to most habitats. Seeds readily spread by birds.



Poinciana *Delonix regia* Environmental weed

Invasive tree of riverine habitat. Seeds spread through floods etc.



Rain Tree *Albizia saman* Environmental weed

Large tree. Can cause damage to infrastructure due to large surface roots



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Umbrella Tree *Schefflera actinophylla* Native tree

Invasive roots can damage infrastructure



Yellow Bells *Tecoma stans* Environmental weed

Small tree. Can tolerate dry conditions



Shrubs



Bellyache bush *Jatropha gossypifolia* Class B weed and WONS

Poisonous bush that can invade most habitats, particularly riverine habitats



Candle Bush *Senna alata* Class B and C weed

Grows into large shrub. Particularly problematic in wetter habitats. Seeds disperse through water and animal movement.



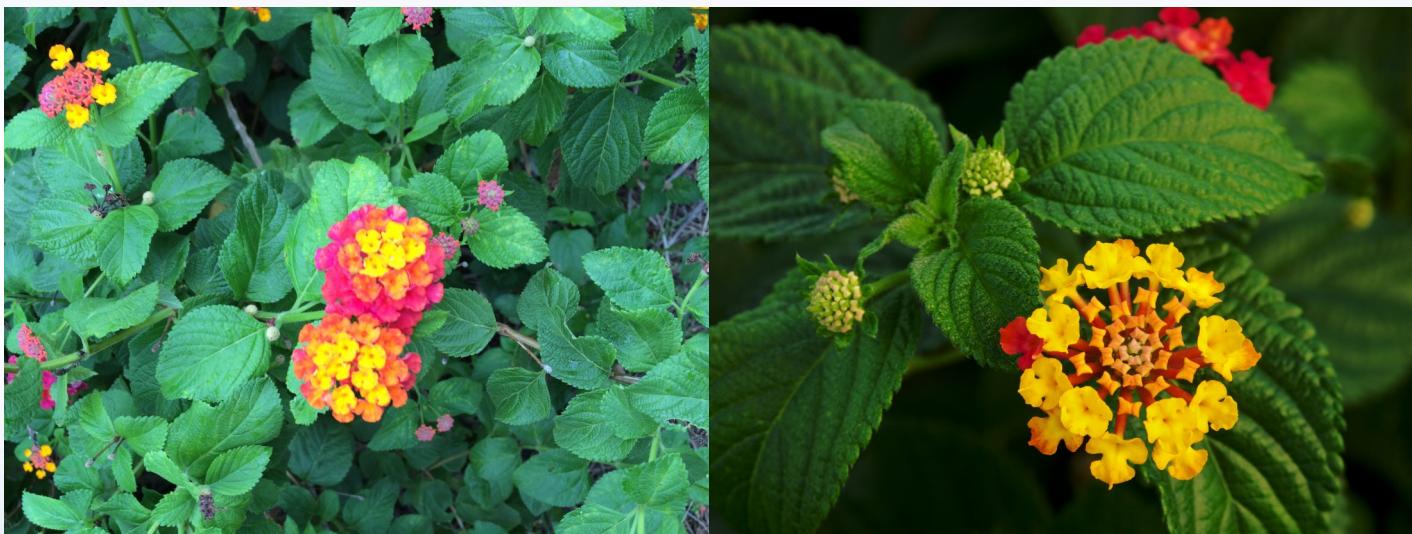
Duranta *Duranta erecta* Environmental weed

Woody shrub. Seeds spread by birds.



Lantana *Lantana camara* Class B weed and WONS

Large prickly bush, forms dense thickets. Seeds spread by birds



Snakeweed *Stachytarphetta* spp. Class B weed

Grows into a large shrub. Prolific seeder. Particularly invasive of creek lines and damp areas.



Yellow Oleander *Cascabela thevetia* Environmental weed

Shrub to small bushy tree. Can invade riverine vegetation.



Cactus and succulents

Mother of Millions *Bryophyllum spp.* Environmental weed

Invasive succulent. Readily spreads vegetatively and through seed.



Mother in Law Tongue *Sansevieria trifasciata* Environmental weed

Clumping plant with underground rhizomes. Usually spreads into bushland through illegal dumping of garden waste



Prickly Pear *Opuntia spp.* Class A weed and WONS

Cactus plant. Spreads vegetatively, and through birds dispersing seeds in fruit



Vines and creepers



Coral vine *Antigonon leptopus* Environmental weed

A creeping vine that smothers all other vegetation



Glory Lily *Gloriosa superba* Environmental weed

An invasive vine with ground tubers, that can form a dense understory carpet



Ivy Gourd *Coccinia grandis* Environmental weed

Vigorous growing vine. Smothers all other vegetation. Seeds spread by birds



Rubber Vine *Cryptostegia madagascariensis* Class A and WONS

Grows into large vine, that climbs trees. Seeds are light and fluffy, dispersed large distances by wind.



Singapore Daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata* Environmental weed

A creeper that smothers vegetation in damp areas, creek lines etc.



Thunberbia *Thunbergia lorifolia* Environmental weed

A very persistent large vine, smothers trees



Grasses



Annual Mission Grass *Cenchrus pedicellatus* Class B and C weed

Highly invasive grass



Bamboo *Bambusa spp* Environmental weed

Large woody clumping plant that spreads by new shoots emerging from rhizomes



Gamba Grass *Andropogon gayanus* Class A weed

Highly invasive grass, promotes extremely hot fires that can kill trees



Grader Grass *Themeda quadrivalvis* Class B and C weed

Highly invasive grass, not to be confused with native Kangaroo Grass



Guinea Grass *Megathyrsus maximus* var *maximus* Environmental weed

Large invasive grass



Perennial Mission Grass *Cenchrus polystachios* Class B and C

Large invasive grass



Aquatic Weeds



Salvinia *Salvinia molesta* Class B weed and WONS

Aquatic weed that rapidly takes over the water surface of billabongs and rivers. Impacts water quality and aquatic ecosystems



Water Lettuce *Pistia stratiotes* Environmental aquatic weed

Same impacts as *Salvinia*



Plants/Trees not in Nhulunbuy and not to be introduced

Baleria *Baleria prioris* Class A weed

Very invasive prickly shrub, especially on watercourses.



Aquatic weeds not to be introduced

Cabomba *Cabomba caroliniana* Class A weed



Sagittaria *Sagittaria platyphylla* Class A weed, WONS



Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* Class A weed, WONS



Reporting

Any sightings of declared plants listed in this brochure should be reported to:

NT Weeds Branch (08) 89994567 or by email on weedinfo@nt.gov.au

Control

Hand pulling can be used to remove grass weeds and smaller plants.

Herbicide foliar spraying. Some plants can be controlled by spraying the leaves of the plant with the appropriate herbicide.

Basal bark treatment- Larger shrubs, vines and trees with trunks less than 10cm wide can be treated by spraying the outer bark from ground level to 30cm up the trunk with a herbicide/diesel mix.

Cut stump treatment. Large shrubs and trees are best treated using this method. It involves cutting the plant/tree down below 10cm and immediately treating the stump with a particular herbicide mixed with diesel. Tree lopping/chainsaw training is usually necessary for utilising this method.

Most herbicide control methods need to be administered by a trained weed controller with herbicide use certification. You will need to report this to the property manager/owner to instigate this control option.

Disposal

Any weed plant material should be disposed of responsibly to avoid weed spread. Weed plant material can establish in new areas through the introduction of seeds, rhizomes and tubers. Plants can also persist growing through vegetative spread, where parts of the original plant produce roots and tap into the soil. For these reasons, plants should be disposed of through the green waste part of the Nhulunbuy Waste Disposal Facility. ***Under no circumstances should garden/weed waste be disposed of in bushland or waterways.***

Identification

If you suspect that you might have weeds growing in your property, but they aren't in this guide please contact the NT Weeds Branch. It is preferable to email the Weeds Branch with good photos of the plants to aid in identification.