

DHIMURRU WEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

For review in 2015

June 2011



Dhimurru Weed Management Strategy 2011 / 12

Main Focus on:	Mission Grass, Coffee Bush, Mossman River Grass
Region:	Northeast Arnhem Land
Area:	Dhimurru IPA – 92, 000 Hectares
Contact Details:	John Papple <i>Phone: 0427 009 653</i> <i>Email: johnp@dhimurru .com.au</i>
Date:	June 2011
Strategy Review Annually:	July

Introduction

The Dhimurru Weed Management Strategy outlines the main weed sites on the IPA currently known and identifies the main species to be controlled in these areas. The control is ongoing and the areas need to be checked several times during the year including the active growing season of the weeds. The main growing season is generally from December/January through to May/June, it should be noted that each year the wet season varies and consequently the growing season. Weeds on the Dhimurru IPA are mainly Class B Noxious Weeds.

Other weeds not identified in this plan are controlled when identified during weed operations or on weed surveys. The main areas of infestation on the IPA are around established visitor access points (roadsides), day-use areas and campgrounds. Weeds have become established in these areas as a result of visitors and locals bringing seeds in on clothing, boots and vehicles from infested areas in and around Nhulunbuy, Yirrkala and from communities along the Central Arnhem Highway.

Working with our neighbours on controlling weeds will ultimately improve the overall condition of country in NE Arnhemland. In an effort to get on top of weeds in the region an annual meeting between IPA's (managed by Dhimurru and Yirrkala rangers), Nhulunbuy Corporation, Rio Tinto, East Arnhem Shire and YBE should be held to review and discuss priorities, share ideas and strategy's to ensure we are all working to a common goal.

The use of fire can help reduce the spread of seeds towards the end of the growing season when plants dry off and before the dry season. This use of fire would play a part in the burning program and form part of the early dry season burns.

Parks and Wildlife work alongside Dhimurru and provide an advisory and training role with weed control throughout the IPA.

Goals and Objectives

Strategic Weed Management is an integral part of land management as is fire, feral animals and land disturbance, often impacting on one or all of the other management activities. Weed management needs to follow these objectives (Storrs, 1996, A & B):

- Increase awareness of weed management issues and foster ownership and responsibilities of weed infestations by the relevant landholder;
- Promote long-term commitment to weed management;
- Identify current weed distributions and determine control priorities; and
- Integrate weed management into the wider spectrum of improved land management.

Consideration should be given to the following seven key principles (Storrs & Lonsdale, 1995):

- Prevention;
- Identify areas prone to weed invasion;
- Early control and the minimisation of outbreaks;
- Minimising an area's susceptibility to invasion;
- Immediate management program;
- Researching existing and potential weed problems; and
- Undertaking regular reviews.

Dhimurru uses cybertacker as a management tool recording data and weed control activities. It provides a better way of keeping data for ongoing management of weed infestations and can highlight where problem weed areas occur. Dhimurru is part of the NE Arnhem Weed Group which incorporates all stakeholders with weed issues in the region and has links to the Darwin Weed Reference Group.

Dhimurru rangers will have ongoing training in Chemical Handling as part of their training requirements.

Program

Activities throughout the year aim to reduce the spread of weeds and in time eradicate them from infested areas. Rangers will continue to monitor areas of the IPA for new outbreaks of weeds. At the end of each year the actions (spraying, handpulling, burning) taken to control weeds will be reviewed to ensure best practices are continued. Data collected during weed operations will be recorded on DIMS (Dhimurru Information Management System) and Cybertracker for ongoing monitoring of known weed sites. This will ensure follow up to sites and control of weed infested areas.

The Northern Territory Noxious Weeds Act

Classes of Noxious Weeds

Class A: to be eradicated. These are noxious weeds which pose a significant threat but which only occupy a relatively small area. There is a good chance of eradication being achieved.

Class B: growth and spread to be controlled. These weeds are more widely spread and are impractical to eradicate, but prevention of their further spread is desirable. Eradication may be possible if they occur in geographically isolated situations.

Class C: not to be introduced to the Territory. These are weeds which are not known to exist in the Territory but which could pose a significant threat if introduced. This class also includes all Class A and Class B weeds since further introductions of these weeds would only escalate the existing problems.



Table 1 - Weed Classification, Control Techniques and Control Time

Weeds in IPA	Classification	Control Technique	Control Time
Mission Grass	B, C	Spraying, Hand Pulling	Dec – March
Mossman River Grass	B, C	Spraying, Hand Pulling	Dec - March
Coffee Bush	None	Spraying, Cut and Swab	All year
Candle Bush	B, C	Spraying, Cut and Swab	Dec - April
Coffee Senna, Sicklepod	B, C	Spraying, Hand Pulling	Dec – April
Caltrop	B, C	Spraying, Hand Pulling	Dec – March
Gamba Grass	A, B, C	Spraying, Burning	Dec - March
Grader Grass	B, C	Spraying	Dec – March
Hyptis	B, C	Spraying, Hand Pulling	Dec – March
Salvinia	B, C	Hand Removal	Jan – Dec
Passiflora	None	Spraying	Dec - March
Snakeweeds	B, C	Spraying	Dec – March
Sida	B, C	Spraying	Dec – March
Neem	None	Cut and Swab	March – May
Golden Shower	None	Cut and Swab	All Year
Cotton Bush	None	Spray	Dec – March



Table 2 – Recreation Area Weeds and Priority

IPA REC AREAS	WEEDS	PRIORITY
Galaru	Mission Grass, Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	High
Wirrawuy	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Middle Beach	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Gadalathami	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Gumunihya	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Lombuy	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Dump Site near Lombuy	Mission Grass, Hyptis, Golden Shower, Cotton Bush, Coffee Senna	High
Ski Beach	Mission Grass, Coffee Bush	High
Latram	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Goanna	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Yarrapay	Caltrop	Low
Baringura	None Identified as yet	Low
Numuy	Hyptis, Coffee Senna, Sida, Caltrop	Medium
Macassans	Coffee Bush, Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Binydjarrnga	Mission Grass, Coffee Senna, Hyptis, Coffee Bush	High
Guwatjurumurru	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Low
Scout Camp	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Low
Ganami Wonga	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Low
Gaparu	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Low
Wanuwuy	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass, Mission Grass	High
Nhulun	Passiflora, Mission Grass, Hyptis, Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	High
Ganinyara	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Dhambaliya	Coffee Bush	High
Gulkala Houses	Mission Grass, Hyptis	High
Gulkala	Mossman River Grass, Mission Grass	High
Galkila Homelands	Mission Grass, Hyptis	High
Rainbow Cliffs	Caltrop, Mossman River Grass	Medium
Gayngaru	Mission Grass, Caltrop, Mossman River Grass, Candle Bush, Coffee Bush, Coffee Senna, Hyptis, Snakeweed	High

Note: This list is not exhaustive and may change. High Priority has been given to all areas where Mission Grass has been identified. Mission Grass has the greatest potential for impacting the native habitat of the IPA.



Seasonal Work Calendar 2010 / 11

[illegible]

