

Woody Weeds  
of the  
Cape Naturalists  
to  
Cape Leeuwin Region





*Cape to Cape  
Catchments Group*



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



SWCC

south west catchments council

Reference Details:

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Woody Weeds of the Cape Naturaliste  
to Cape Leeuwin Region

## Woody Weeds of the Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin Region

This booklet contains detailed information on **31 of the worst woody weeds that are invading and degrading our bushland**. It recommends control methods and suggests some non-weedy alternatives, mostly local plants, which will grow well, look beautiful and have low nutrient and water needs. A further 27 species are listed that are known weeds in the south west of WA.

Many ornamental plants have escaped from our gardens and properties to become destructive bush and farm invaders. **Roughly 70% of all weeds are escaped garden ornamentals. Weedy plants grow fast, grow almost anywhere, have few predators and the ability to reproduce and spread rapidly.**

*What is a woody weed?* Woody weeds are woody perennials which have established in bushland outside their normal range. Woody plants are plants which continue to increase in girth even after they have reached their maximum height.

Weeds destroy the habitat of our unique native animals. They damage our bush by out competing native plants, choking waterways and increasing fire risk. They **reduce local biodiversity and they permanently change ecosystems**. In Western Australia weeds pose a **greater overall threat to biodiversity than salinity**.

Many of our worst weeds are **native Australian plants** from elsewhere in the country, e.g. Acacias (wattles) and Eucalypts. It is estimated that 39% of the woody weed species found in the coastal plain and jarrah forest are from eastern Australia. These plants have been widely planted as street trees, in windbreaks and revegetation on farms.

Eastern States Acacias in particular are often larger than most local Acacias and they act as a transformer weed species by adding nutrients to the soil and shading out local species. Transformer weeds have the potential to seriously alter the structure and function of an ecological community.

In the Cape to Cape region, we are fortunate that almost all of us live within sight and sound of the bush. Bushland is our natural heritage. It is a large part of what makes our area unique. It identifies our region and gives us a “sense of place”.

For people in our towns, bushland reduces noise, air and visual pollution, creates a feeling of peace and space, and enhances the quality of residential life. Bushland provides a variety of recreational activities and attracts large numbers of tourists who contribute substantially to our economy.

It protects the water quality in our creeks, rivers and drinking water catchments. The bushland around our towns provides a buffer between developed areas and National Parks, and helps to protect these ecosystems. It provides habitat for indigenous plant and animal species, and provides wildlife corridors and vegetation links, enabling us to experience native wildlife in our urban areas.

With the privilege of living so close to bushland comes the responsibility for its conservation and protection.

- Choose plants that are not likely to become weeds in your area.
- Check existing garden plants are safe.
- Remove potentially weedy plants.
- Dispose of garden waste carefully.
- Be careful not to spread weeds.


# Keys

## 1. Weed status

All of the weeds listed in this guide are seriously invasive and have the ability to invade good bush-land areas, the key below is an indication of the current infestation levels in the Cape to Cape region. That is, which weeds are most obviously established in this region and which weeds have the potential to become established.

- Well established weed, invading many natural habitats
- Invading natural habitats, but not yet widely established
- Minor local outbreaks, not yet established but has demonstrated problems in neighbouring areas
- ✱ Toxic, thorns or prickles

## 2. Control Methods

Manual control	
<b>H</b>	<p><b>Hand weed</b></p> <p>Be wary of soil disturbance and trampling. Suitable for light infestations of many seedlings and small saplings, not suitable for suckers.</p>
<b>F</b>	<p><b>Felling and ringbarking</b></p> <p>Suitable for trees and shrubs that do not resprout or sucker, so correct identification is essential. To ringbark, cut away a strip of bark at least 10cm wide and deep enough to sever the flow of plant food up the trunk. When felling, cut as close to the ground as possible, in order to minimise the probability of reshooting. If plant has seed/fruit, lop and remove from site.</p>
Chemical control	
<p><b>WHEN TO TREAT WITH HERBICIDE</b></p> <p>Apply herbicide when the plant is actively growing.</p> <p>Do not apply herbicide when the plant is under stress: extreme heat or cold, drought, waterlogging or disease.</p> <p>Choose early morning or late afternoon if in summer.</p> <p>Do not apply when wet or windy weather is anticipated.</p> <p>Treat deciduous plants in late spring or summer when in full leaf.</p>	
<b>Cp</b>	<p><b>Cut and paint</b></p> <p>Suitable for non-suckering trees only. Saw or lop tree as close to the ground as possible. Essential to apply herbicide immediately to cut trunk, with spray, brush, wick or squirt bottle.</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>Apply the herbicide within seconds of cutting.</p>  </div>

		Remove fruit, seed and any branches that may propagate, bag and take from the site.
<b>Si</b>	Stem injection: - Drill and fill	Suitable for all, including suckering. Drill holes 8-10mm diameter, 50-100mm intervals, depth 30-50mm, at a downward angle into sapwood at base of tree. Ensure there is an injection point below each major branch. Inject approx. 5 ml herbicide immediately after drilling, with squirt bottle, syringe or drench gun.
	- Frilling	Use an axe or hatchet to make cuts at 50-100mm intervals (30-50mm wide, 20-30mm deep), into sap wood at base of tree, followed immediately by herbicide as above.
<b>Bb</b>	Basal Bark	Useful on stems less than 20cm diameter, and some thin barked trees. Spray or paint lower 60cm of bark with herbicide and penetrant (usually diesel).
<b>Fs</b>	Foliar spray	Useful if the bulk of the foliage can be accessed without off-target damage. Use herbicide with penetrant.



Be sure to monitor the control area in years to come. Adult plants may have established a substantial seed bank. Small seedlings can be hand weeded easily in the seasons following control of the parent plant.

### 3. Herbicide Key

Code	Herbicide	Dilution	Penetrant	Trade Names
Gly1	Glyphosate	50%	-	Roundup® Weedmaster® and others
Gly2	Glyphosate	100%	-	As above
Gly3	Glyphosate	Variable	see text	As above
Tri	Triclopyr/ Picloram	Follow label	mixed <u>w</u> Diesel	Grazon® Access®
Mm	Metsulforun methyl	.5g/10l	Pulse	®Ally® Brushhoff® Trounce® with Glyphosate

### 4. Calendar Key

(A) = all year; (Su) = summer; (Au) = autumn; (Wi) = winter; (Spr) = spring

### 5. Dispersal key

Mode of seed dispersal

a = ants; b = bird; d = dumping; ex = explosive; m = mammal  
r = roadworks; building works, machinery; wa = water; wi = wind.

# *Acacia baileyana* ●

Cootamundra Wattle

Origin: NSW



**Description:** Evergreen fast growing small tree <10m; drooping branches; distinctive leaves fern like, silvery grey-blue or purple. Golden yellow ball flowers <8mm, winter - early spring. Hardy tree, esp. in dry sites, shade tolerant, invades bushland, shades out and excludes local plants. Fixes nitrogen in soil which discourages local plants, encourages weeds. Seeds long lived in soil, germinate massively after fire/disturbance. Commonly available, widely planted in gardens, farms, bush blocks and roadsides.

**Dispersal:** seeds a, wi, d, r, wa

**Control:**

**H** **F** **Cp** -Gly1 **Bb** -Tri **A**

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Acacia cyclops*,  
*A. cochlearis*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. rostellifera*,  
*A. saligna*, *Paraserianthes lophana* (*Albizia*)

Exotic - *Virgilia capensis*

## *Acacia dealbata* ●

Silver Wattle, Mimosa.

Origin: NSW, VIC, TAS



**Description:** Spreading shrub/tree <30m. Grey bark, corrugated when old, angular powdery branches. Young growth silvery white. Silvery, hairy, fern like leaves approx. 10cm. Flowers late winter - spring, showy sprays of perfumed, golden yellow globular flowers. Less widely planted than some other weedy wattles. Has ability to sucker into thickets and out-compete native vegetation in disturbed sites.

**Dispersal:** seeds a, wi, d, r, wa, suckers

**Control:**

**H** **Bb** -Tri **Au**

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Paraserianthes lophana*  
(Albizia)

Exotic - *Virgilia capensis*



## *Acacia decurrens* ●

Early Black Wattle, Green Wattle

Origin: NSW



**Description:** Tall shrub-small tree 3–10m or sometimes taller; bark smooth to deeply fissured, brown or dark grey to blackish; branchlets angled with winged ridges. Leaves fern like and dark green. Bright yellow globular flowers late winter to spring. Widely planted on farms, weedy throughout the southwest and elsewhere. Forms thickets after disturbance and fire.

**Dispersal:** seeds a, wi, d, r, wa

**Control:**

H

Cp

-Gly2

Bb

-Tri

Au

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Bossiaea linophylla*, *Acacia cyclops*, *A. cochlearis*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. rostelifera*, *A. saligna*, *Paraserianthes lophana* (Albizia)

Exotic - *Virgilia capensis*

## *Acacia elata* ●

Cedar wattle

Origin: NSW



**Description:** Distinctive summer/autumn flowering, tall, erect tree <20 m; bark deeply fissured at base, dark brown to black, large fern like leaves. Clusters of pale yellow globular flowers that grow along a common stem. Widely planted on farms and rural residential areas, spreading into good quality bushland, especially creeks and rivers, shading out and dominating local plants - has enormous potential to spread further. Adult plants and seed long lived.

**Dispersal:** seeds a, wi, d, wa

**Control:**

H

F

A

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Paraserianthes lophana*  
(Albizia)

## *Acacia iteaphylla* ●

Flinders Range Wattle

Origin: SA



**Description:** Bushy, spreading, often weeping shrub 2–5m; bark green on young plants; narrow silvery blue-green leaf stalks (phyllodes - not true leaves). Pale yellow to lemon yellow globular flowers autumn to spring. Very popular and widely available; planted in gardens, on farms and rural residential areas, spreading into good quality bushland, and dominating local plants - has enormous potential to spread further. Explosive germination after death of parent plant, fire or disturbance. Short lived adult plants but long lived seed.

Dispersal: seeds a, wi, d, r, wa

**Control:**



**Alternatives:**

Native - *Acacia urophylla*, *Bossiaea linophylla*,  
*Melaleuca incana*

## *Acacia longifolia* ●

Sydney Golden Wattle

Origin: NSW, QLD, VIC, SA



**Description:** Two distinct forms introduced to WA. Subspecies *longifolia*: leaves bright green linear with straight seed pods; and subspecies *sophorae*: thicker, shorter, sometimes fleshy leaves with coiled or contorted pods. Shrub/tree <10m. Flowers yellow, rod-like, Jul–Sep. Our most invasive and destructive weed wattle. Weedy in most areas. Widely available, common in gardens, on farms, rural residential, roadsides, rehabilitation sites. Spreading widely and readily into undisturbed bushland as well as degraded sites. Forms thickets. Seeds long lived, germinate readily.

Dispersal: seeds a, wi, d, wa, r

### Control:

H F Bb -Tri (A)

### Alternatives:

Native - *Acacia cyclops*, *A. cochlearis*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. rostellifera*, *A. saligna*; *Bossiaea linophylla*.

## *Acacia mearnsii* ●

Late Black Wattle, Black Wattle

Origin: VIC, TAS, SA, NSW



**Description:** Fast growing, erect shrub/tree <20m, bark smooth to fissured, brown, greenish to blackish. Feathery leaves hairy, dark green. Globular pale yellow flowers Oct-Dec. Suckers into thickets and excludes native vegetation. Classified as one of the OECD's worst 100 weeds in the world. Seeds long lived.

Not to be confused with *Paraserianthes lophana* (Albizia) which has cylindrical spikes of greenish yellow flowers.

Dispersal: suckers and seeds a, wi, d, r, wa

### Control:

**H** **Si** -Gly2 or Tri **Bb** -Tri **Au**

### Alternatives:

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Eucalyptua cornuta*, *Melaleuca lanceolata*, *Paraserianthes lophana* (*Albizia*)

# *Acacia melanoxylon* ●

Blackwood

Origin: QLD, NSW, VIC, TAS, SA



**Description:** Tall, erect tree or shrub <40 m. Leaves dark green. Flowers cream/yellow, August, September. Hardy tree, tolerates shade, invades bushland, shades out and excludes local plants, dominating the vegetation.

Suckers aggressively and coppices. Long lived. Seed long viability. Excellent timber and firewood after removal. Germinates readily and suckers, massively after fire/disturbance. Widely planted on farms, bush blocks, rural residential blocks and roadsides.

Dispersal: suckers and seeds a, b, d, r, wi

## Control:

H Si -Gly1 Bb -Tri Au

## Alternatives:

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Eucalyptus patens*,  
*Melaleuca lanceolata*, *Eucalyptus diversicolor*.

## *Acacia podalyriifolia* ●

Queensland Silver Wattle, Mt Morgan Wattle

Origin: QLD



**Description:** Spreading tree 3–7m. Silver-grey leaves to 4cm, felt-like texture. Golden globular flowers mainly late winter. Widely available and common in gardens, on farms, rural residential, roadsides and rehabilitated gravel pits. Capacity to invade natural systems as well as dominate degraded sites. Seeds long viability, germinate readily.

**Dispersal:** seeds a, d, r, wi, wa

**Control:**



**Alternatives:**

Native - *Acacia cyclops*, *A. cochlearis*,  
*A. myrtifolia*, *A. rostellifera*, *A. saligna*,  
*Bossiaea linophylla*

# *Acacia pycnantha* ●

Golden wattle

Origin: SA, VIC, NSW



**Description:** Bushy small tree <8m, resembles small eucalypt, bark smooth, dark brown to grey. Long, sickle-shaped glossy dark green leaves. Bright yellow globular flowers on long spikelets, July-Nov. Flattish, straight or slightly curved seed pods. Widely planted on roadsides and gravel pits (Australian floral emblem).

Preference for open sites. Widespread environmental weed.

Dispersal: seeds a, d, r, wi, wa

**Control:**

**H** **Cp** -Gly2 **Bb** -Tri **Au**

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Acacia cyclops*, *A. cochlearis*,  
*A. myrtifolia*, *A. rostellifera*, *A. saligna*,  
*A. urophylla*, *Bossiaea linophylla*



## *Corymbia maculata* ●

Spotted Gum

Origin: QLD, NSW



**NB:** *Corymbia maculata* var. *citriodora* (Lemon Scented Gum) is also weedy.

**Description:** Tall tree, straight trunk <50m. Smooth white or colourful, (grey, green or pink) bark; often with characteristic patches or spots, shed in irregular flakes. Adult leaves lanceolate, 10-20cm long. Small, white flowers abundant, winter – spring. Very popular and widely available. Widely planted on farms, rehabilitation sites, wood lots, parks and rural residential areas. Produces copious seed which germinates readily. Should not be used in areas adjacent to bushland or waterways. Potential to hybridize with local *Corymbia* spp. Widespread environmental weed.

Dispersal: seeds wi, a, d, r, wa

**Control:**

**H** **Cp** - Gly1 **Fs** - Gly3 - 150ml/10L **(A)**

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Corymbia haematoxylon*, *C. calophylla*,  
*Eucalyptus diversicolour*, *E. megacarpa*, *E. patens*

## *Chamaecytisus palmensis* ●

Tagasaste

Origin: Canary Islands



**Description:** Shrub or straggly, sparse small tree <4 m, branches weeping. Leaves soft and hairy in groups of three. Flowers pea like, in terminal clusters, cream to white, June–Sept. Readily available and widely planted in gardens, on farms and rural properties as a permaculture plant and stock fodder. Hardy, fast growing, easily propagated, tolerates shade, invades bushland, shades out and excludes other plants. Fixes nitrogen in the soil which discourages local flora and encourages weeds. Germinates massively after disturbance and fire. Dominates disturbed sites. Short lived. Seed long viability.

Dispersal: seeds ex

**Control:**

H Bb -Tri Fs -Mm (A)

**Alternatives:**

Native - Replace with *Acacia saligna* for stock fodder (esp. suckering type). *Acacia cyclops*, *A. cochlearis*, *A. myrtifolia*, *A. rostellifera*, *A. saligna*, *A. urophylla*, *Bossiea linifolia*, *Melaleuca incana*, *Ricinocarpus* “Bridal Star”

## *Cotoneaster* spp ●

Cotoneaster

Origin: Asia



**Description:** Arching, spreading, evergreen shrub/tree <4m. Oval leaves, often paler on reverse. Small white/pinkish flowers (Oct-Jan) in clusters, massed bunches of small red berries (Feb-Aug). Severe local environmental weed, found in forests, reserves, roadsides, degraded sites. Occasionally planted in gardens, widely persists in old gardens. Produces copious berries, widely spread by birds into bushland, germinate readily. Thickets may grow under perching sites such as trees. Can sucker.

Dispersal: seeds b, d

### Control:

**Cp** -Gly2 **Fs** -Gly/Mm mix (Trounce®) **Spr** **Su**

### Alternatives:

Native - *Taxandria linearifolia*, *Darwinia citriodora*, *Bossiaea linophylla*, *Callistemon phoeniceus*.

## *Dodonaea viscosa purpurea* ●

Purple Hop Bush

Origin: New Zealand



**Description:** Evergreen shrub <5m. Long narrow leaves, green to reddish purple. Inconspicuous pale greenish flowers in spring, followed by conspicuous reddish pink “hop” fruit. Severe local environmental weed, found in reserves, as well as roadsides and degraded sites. Widely and increasingly planted and available, commonly believed Australian native (local *D. viscosa* has green, small leaves, smaller fruit). Produces copious seed, spread by birds and germinates readily. Thickets may grow under perching sites such as trees, and around drains.

Dispersal: seeds b, d, wa

### Control:

H Cp -Gly1 Bb -Tri Fs -Mm (A)

### Alternatives:

Native - Local *Dodonaea* species, *Agonis flexuosa* “After Dark”, *Alyogyne huegelii*

# *Eucalyptus globulus* ●

Blue Gum, Tasmanian Blue Gum

Origin: TAS, VIC



**Description:** Fast growing evergreen very tall tree <60m. Smooth pale bark shed in large strips. Juvenile foliage broad, blue-grey. Mature leaves narrow, sickle-shaped, dark green. Small white-cream flowers. Widely planted as plantations, for amenity, on farms, rural properties, roadsides and rehabilitation. Spreading into adjacent areas from plantations. Useful for firewood and timber.

Dispersal: seeds wi

## Control:

**H** **Cp** - Gly1 **Fs** -Gly3 - 150ml/10L (A)

## Alternatives:

Native - *Eucalyptus patens*, *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, *E. cornuta*, *Corymbia calophylla*.

NB. Like the Acacias, many Eucalypts have invasive potential outside their native areas if they come from similar habitats and climates. They should be avoided adjacent to waterways and bush. See appendix for further problem species.

# *Eucalyptus grandis* ●

Rose Gum; Flooded Gum

Origin: NSW, QLD



**Description:** Fast growing evergreen very tall tree <60m. Bark persistent on lower trunk <2m, grey, fibrous-flaky, smooth above, powdery, white or grey, shedding abundantly in short ribbons or flakes. Juvenile leaves ovate, glossy dark green. Adult leaves lanceolate, dark green, glossy, bluish beneath. Widely planted for timber, amenity, on farms, rural properties, roadsides, rehabilitation. Spreading into adjacent areas. Very brittle in wind, invasive into sheltered areas such as waterways. Useful for firewood, timber, mulch.

Dispersal: seeds wi

## Control:

**H** **Cp** -Gly1 **Fs** -Gly3 -150ml/10L **A**

## Alternatives:

Native - *Eucalyptus diversicolor*, *E. patens*

# *Eucalyptus robusta* ●

Swamp Mahogany

Origin: NSW, QLD



**Description:** Fast growing evergreen tall tree <25m. Bark red-brown, stringy (shortly fibrous), thick and spongy. Juvenile leaves ovate, glossy green. Adult leaves large, lanceolate, dark green, glossy, paler underneath, pale cream flowers summer. Hardy tree widely planted for timber, amenity, on farms, rural properties, roadsides, rehabilitation. Spreading into adjacent areas. Very brittle in wind. Useful for firewood, timber, mulch.

Dispersal: seeds wi

## Control:

**H** **Cp** -Gly1 **Fs** -Gly3 - 150ml/10L (A)

## Alternatives:

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *Eucalyptus patens*, *E. megacarpa*.

# *Eriobotrya japonica* ●

Loquat

Origin: Asia



**Description:** Evergreen tree <8m. Large, glossy green, slightly toothed, oval, veined leaves. Small fragrant dull yellow-white flowers (Mar-May). Orange to yellow, round or pear-shaped edible fruit (Oct-Dec). Invades disturbed sites adjacent to settlements, widespread in bushland around townsites, roadsides, forest margins, waterways.

**Dispersal:** seeds b, d

**Control:**

**H** **F** **Cp** -Gly2 **Si** -Gly1 **A**

**Alternatives:**

None. Remove fruit before birds spread seed.



## *Erythrina x sykesii* ● 🌺

Flame Tree, Coral Tree

Origin: Garden hybrid



**Description:** Fast growing deciduous very thorny tree <18m. Large scarlet flowers late spring. Bright green, large, trifoliate leaves in summer. Widely planted and persisting around old settlements. Invades disturbed sites adjacent to settlements, widespread in bushland around townsites, roadsides, forest margins, waterways.

**Dispersal:** Sterile hybrid, no seed. Spreads from fallen branches, rubbish dumping. Pieces strike readily in any conditions, even free water.

### **Control:**

Treat standing plants, do not cut down. Allow to rot fully before felling.

Si -Gly2 or Tri Bb -Tri (Su) (Au)

### **Alternatives:**

Native - *Brachychiton acerifolium* (Illawarra Flame Tree)

# *Ficus carica* ● 🌟

Flame Tree, Coral Tree

Origin: Garden hybrid



**Description:** Large, spreading, deciduous, shrub or small tree <10m, smooth grey bark. Large leaves 3-5 lobed. Fruit 3–5cm, green - purple. Sap of tree irritant to human skin. Serious weed of waterways and rivers. Widely planted tree with many existing around old settlements and orchards.

Dispersal: seeds b, m, d

**Control:**

**H** **Si** -Gly2 **Fs** -Gly3 - 100ml/10L **(Su)**

**Alternatives:**

None. Remove fruit.

## *Genista spp* ●

Broom, Cape Broom, Canary Broom

Origin: Europe, Azores



(Includes a number of species and hybrids).

**Description:** Shrub < 3m. Leaves vary, entire to tri-lobed, small, sometimes hairy. Pea flowers, bright yellow, flower any time of the year. Pea-like pods, grey green, hairy or not hairy. One of our most serious weeds. Worldwide pest plant. Widespread in our area, spreading further along trails into good bush. Highly invasive. Cultivars of *Genista* and *Cytisus* are all weedy or potentially weedy and should be avoided, although still widely available in garden centres. Seed germinates massively and quickly dominates vegetation. Seed long lived (<20 years).

Dispersal: seeds ex, b, wa

**Control:**

**H** **Cp** -Gly2 **Fs** -Gly3 -110ml/10L **Wi** **Spr**

**Alternatives:**

Native - Local *Acacia spp.*, *Bossiaea spp.*

## *Homalanthus populifolius* ●

Bleeding Heart Tree, Queensland Poplar

Origin: QLD, NSW



**Description:** Bushy evergreen shrub or small tree <6m, young stems exuding a whitish sap. Leaves ovate – heart shaped, often reddish as they age or in cool weather, smooth, underneath greyish. Fleshy fruits Dec-Mar. Shade tolerant pioneer species. Widespread around townsites, degraded sites. Birds spread seedlings into good condition bush.

Dispersal: seeds b, wa, r

**Control:**

**H** **Cp** -Gly2 **Fs** -Mm **Bb** -Tri (A)

**Alternatives:**

Native - Local *Acacia* spp., *Templetonia retusa*

# *Lagunaria patersonii* ●☀

Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Cow Itch Tree

Origin: QLD



**Description:** Evergreen small tree <6m, thick, entire, oval leaves olive green. Pink flowers, fuzzy brown seed pods. Pods contain masses of highly irritant fibreglass-like hairs which are especially dangerous around children. Hardy species, widely planted for coastal amenity. Weedy in Augusta, becoming widespread elsewhere. A pest due to the irritant hairs, specially adjacent to walkways and near beaches.

Dispersal: seeds wi, wa, m, d

**Control:**



**Alternatives:**

Native - *Alyogyne huegelii*

# *Lavandula stoechas* ●

Italian Lavender

Origin: Europe



**Description:** Aromatic shrub, grey-green narrow leaves <1m. Flowers purple, Jul–Dec. Hardy, popular species, widely planted and widely available. Weedy throughout south west WA and most of Australia. Locally a weed of degraded sites and road verges, with potential to spread much further, especially into dryer, more open sites e.g. heath and coastal.

Dispersal: seeds wi, wa

**Control:**

**H** **Cp** -Gly1 (A)

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Dianella spp*, *Patersonia spp*, *Thysanotus spp*, *Eremophila nivea*, *Guichenotia ledifolium*, *Thomasia spp*, *Verticordia plumosa*, *V. picta*

# *Leptospermum laevigatum* ●

Victorian Tea tree

Origin: QLD, NSW, VIC



**Description:** Tall, bushy shrub or small, twisted tree <6m. Leaves grey-green, obovate, to 2cm. Flowers white in spring/early summer. Hardy species, widely planted especially for hedging and coastal windbreaks. Weedy throughout south west WA and much of Australia and overseas. One of our most widespread weeds, a serious pest especially in coastal areas. Allelopathic – inhibits the growth of surrounding plant species.

Dispersal: seeds wi, r, d

## Control:

**H** **F** **Bb** -Tri **Fs** -Gly3-100ml/10L+ **Wi** **Spr**  
25ml Pulse®

## Alternatives:

Native - *Ricinocarpus* “Bridal Star”, *Melaleuca huegelii*, *M. lanceolata*, *Hakea oleifolia*, *H. trifurcata*

# *Melaleuca armillaris* ●

Bracelet Honey Myrtle

Origin: QLD, NSW, VIC



**Description:** Tall, bushy shrub or medium tree, <8m. Leaves bright green, needle like. Flowers white brushes, in spring/summer. Hardy species, widely planted and available especially for hedging and windbreaks. Our most common weedy Eastern States Melaleuca.

Not to be confused with local *Melaleucas* (*M. raphiophylla*, *M. preisiana*). Most local *Melaleuca* flowers are terminal where *M. armillaris* bears flowers low down on the branchlets.

Dispersal: seeds wi, wa

**Control:**

**H** **Cp** -Gly (A)

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Melaleuca cuticularis*, *M. huegelii*,  
*M. lanceolata*, *M. preissiana*



# *Olea europaea* ●

European Olive

Origin: Mediterranean



**Description:** Spreading bushy, frequently weeping small/medium tree <8m. Leaves grey green “olive green”, oval. Flowers small, white, in spring followed by fleshy fruit ripening autumn/winter. Hardy, drought tolerant, very long lived species massively planted and available especially for fruit/oil production/ornament. Widespread weed of many areas including SA, VIC, NSW.

Dispersal: seeds b, r, m, d

## Control:

**H** **Bb** -Tri **Fs** -Gly3 - 150ml/10L **Su** **Au**

## Alternatives:

None for fruit. Remove fruit or fruiting wood.

For ornament and windbreak:

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Paraserianthes lophantha*, *Hakea oleifolia*, *Melaleuca lanceolata*

# *Pittosporum undulatum* ●

Mock Orange, Sweet Pittosporum

Origin: QLD, NSW, VIC



**Description:** Spreading bushy, dense large shrub or small tree <8m. Large green glossy oval leaves, strongly perfumed attractive creamy flowers in spring followed by bright orange sticky fleshy fruits highly attractive to birds. One of our most invasive and widespread weeds. Shade tolerant species which out-competes native species, forming exclusive thickets. Allelopathic.

Dispersal: seeds b, r, m

**Control:** killed by fire

**H** **Cp** -Gly1 **Si** -Gly1 **A**

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Chorilaena quercifolia*, *Hakea trifurcata*,  
*Hibbertia cuneiformis*, *Melaleuca huegelii*

## *Polygala myrtifolia* ●

Butterfly Bush, Myrtle Leaved Milkwort.

Origin: South Africa



**Description:** Medium shrub <2.5m, crowded light green elliptic leaves 1.5cm. Pea like magenta and white flowers in clusters much of the year, followed by circular fruit capsules.

A serious weed throughout Australia. Spreading widely from old and current plantings around all settlements into degraded and good condition areas. Forms thickets in disturbed sites. Seed short lived.

Dispersal: seeds b, a, wa

**Control:**

**H** **F** **Fs** -Gly3 - 150ml/10L (A)

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Thomasia* spp., *Eremophila nivea*, *Philothea myoporoides*, *Crowea saligna*

## *Psoralea pinnata* ●

Taylorina, African scurf pea

Origin: South Africa



**Description:** Shrub/small tree <4m. Dark green very narrow needle like foliage, leaflets only 2.3cm. Clusters small, fragrant pale blue pea flowers, followed by small seed pods (4-5mm). Extremely invasive weed of WA South Coast, especially in wetlands. Local infestations in Augusta and the Margaret River LIA. Serious potential to become more widespread. Seed long lived.

Dispersal: seeds b, m, wa

### Control:

**H** **Cp** -Gly 3 -20%; Tri **Fs** -Mm **Spr** **Su**

### Alternatives:

Native - *Scaevola crassifolia*, *Alyogyne huegelii*, *Kunzea recurva*

## *Robinia pseudoacacia* ● ☀

Black Locust

Origin: America



**Description:** Tall deciduous tree <15m. Bright, dark green compound leaves, stems and branches have long sharp spines. All parts highly toxic (to people and stock). White pea flowers in spring followed by long brown seed pods. Suckers profusely. Garden cultivars widely planted “Golden”, “Mop Top” and pink varieties all grafted onto species *Robinia*. Shallow rooted, suckers with minor disturbance (lawn mowing, digging) to form impenetrable thickets of thorny saplings. Original species persists around settlements, farms.

Dispersal: Suckers, seeds

**Control:**

**H** -seedlings only **Si** -Gly2 **Bb** -Tri **Spr** **Su**

**Alternatives:**

Native - *Agonis flexuosa*, *Eucalyptus megacarpa*

Exotic - *Lagerstroemia indica* (Crepe Myrtle), *Pistachio chinensis*, *Pyrus calleryana*,  
*Zelkova serrata*

These are also weeds in our area:

**Scientific Name**

**Common Name**

<i>Acacia floribunda</i>	Sallow Wattle
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterfly Bush
<i>Callistemon spp.</i>	Bottlebrush (non-local spp)
<i>Coprosma repens</i>	Mirror Bush
<i>Cordyline australis</i>	Cordyline
<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Tree Fern
<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Swamp Mahogany
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Gum
<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Lemon Scented Gum
<i>Eucalyptus conferruminata</i>	Marlock
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Sydney Blue Gum
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	Mugga, Ironbark
<i>Ligustrum spp</i>	Privet
<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i>	Desert Ash
<i>Melaleuca nesophila</i>	
<i>Ochna serrulata</i>	Mickey Mouse Plant
<i>Pelargonium capitatum</i>	Pelargonium, Geranium
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Pine (and other <i>Pinus spp</i> )
<i>Podalyria sericea</i>	Silk Bush
<i>Populus spp.</i>	Poplars
<i>Rosa spp.</i>	Wild roses
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Pepper Tree
<i>Tecoma capensis</i>	Cape Honeysuckle
<i>Ulmus procera</i>	English Elm



*Mickey Mouse Plant, Ochna Serrulata*



*Cape Honeysuckle, Tecoma capensis*



*Margaret River townscape streetscape - weeds include Spotted Gum, Ironbark, Victorian Tea Tree, Dolichos Pea, Morning Glory, Ivy.*

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