

Gardens for wildlife

Weed control

Environmental weeds are non-indigenous plants that impact on indigenous vegetation by competing for space, nutrients, water, light and pollinators.

Gardens are a big source of environmental weeds in Australia. By not planting these weedy species in your garden we can prevent the threat they pose to native wildlife.

- 28,000 introduced species of plants in Australia
- 16,000 naturally occurring plant species
- 3,300 plant species indigenous to Victoria
- 2,500 of introduced plants are now weeds and
- 10 new weed species each year.

How do weeds spread?

- **Water** – during rainfall seed is washed down slope and can spread rapidly along streams.
- **Vegetatively** – weeds can become “blankets” smothering other plants
- **Berries** – birds eat the berries and deposit the seed some distance from the source.
- **Wind** – the seed maybe carried a considerable distance in the direction of the prevailing wind.
- **Humans** – dumping garden waste can spread weeds.

Weeds reduce habitat for native animals and they also attract feral animals by supplying them with food or shelter. During blackberry season a fox's diet can consist of up to 75% blackberries!

More information about controlling weeds on your property can be found on Council's website www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weeds

Weed grants for residents

Weed control grants are available to help landowners and community groups control noxious and environmental weeds on private property, both in agricultural areas and areas of high environmental value. Weed control grants open at the start of each financial year. More information is available on Council's website www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weedcontrolgrants

Thank you to Natureshare website for images of weed species

Thank you to Knox City Council for their assistance in compiling this factsheet.



Photo Blackberries by Russell Best



Photo Sweet Pittosporum by Chris Clarke



70% of weeds are garden escapees