



Junior Action Plan

Why are weeds so bad?

Weeds are invasive plants growing in places where they are not wanted. Many are harmful to the environment, to human health prevent farming from taking place.

- Our precious environment is threatened by invasive garden plants and weeds that take over large areas of bushland and evict native species. This reduces some of the Australia's unique biodiversity in many areas and is changing our bushland. Many native species are now endangered as a result of weeds. When this happens, many native animals are left without food and homes.
- Every year weeds cost Australian farmers about \$4 billion dollars by taking over from crops or pasture. Some weeds are poisonous to animals and can make them die.
- Some weeds affect human health if consumed or handled, such as skin rashes or asthma.



How can you stop weeds?

- **Learn about the weeds in your area**
Search the library for books about weeds
Ask your parents, teachers, local council or garden retail centre for information
Surf the net for weedy websites. Try www.weedbusters.info and click on "Weed Links"
- **Find out about the ways weeds can spread**
The pictures on the side of this fact sheet give you a few clues.
Can you think of any other ways?
- **Spot weeds and tell people about them**
Check with an adult before you pull weeds out
 - make sure you're removing the right plants.
 - always use gloves as some plants have sharp spikes or some could give you a nasty rash!
 - dispose of weeds correctly by bagging them for the bin or composting them.
- **Discuss weed problems with other people**
 - parents may not realise weeds are a problem.
 - share information about weed problems in and around your schoolyard.
- **Get your teacher involved in Weedbusters (6-13th October 2007)**
 - get your teacher interested in registering an event
 - visit the web site www.weedbusters.info and register your activity



Important tips

- make sure plants in your garden don't have the potential to become invasive in the environment. Ask your retail garden centre or local government weeds officer for helpful advice.
- Identify the plants that are in your garden and replace those that are invasive with non-invasive species.
- always remove and dispose of garden plants that can be weeds in the bush.
- bag garden clippings for bin collection or compost them, but never dump them in the bush.
- Join or form a Coastcare, Landcare, or Friends of group to tackle weeds on public land in your area of interest.

There are lots of things you can do!