

**Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
Queensland Government
Media Release**

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Backyard nasties targeted at Townsville Weedbuster celebrations

GARDENERS from across the Townsville district will be able to get some handy hints on avoiding weed menaces in their backyards at a special Weedbuster Week launch to be held at Bunnings later this month.

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Townsville City Council, Greening Australia and Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management will have a heap of activities, information and recommendations available in-store on Sunday August 31 from 10am to 3pm.

For those who are planning a visit to Cotters Markets in the city mall on the same day, the Townsville City Council will host a stall with information on weeds and free tree give-aways.

Townsville City Council will also be running a free "weed swap" on Sunday September 7 from 10am-4pm at the Jensen Landfill and Transfer Station, Geaneys Lane, Deeragun, where people can dump their weeds for free and receive a number of replacement native species.

The weeds on the hit list at the Deeragun event are Mother of Millions, Mother-in-Laws Tongue, Sisal Hemp and Barleria (prionitis and lupulina).

At the Bunnings event, Greening Australia's popular gardening expert and ABC gardening personality Phil Murray will be making an in-store appearance.

DPI&F Biosecurity Queensland extension officer Rosie Anderson said many of the district's weed problems were originally introduced as ornamental species.

"Lantana, singapore daisy, and mother-in-law's tongue were all popular with gardeners last century, but are now proving that their beautiful appearance has a sting in the tail.

"Landholders with any of these species will know how easy these spread and take over the garden, and how hard it is to control and remove them."

She said a simple answer was to avoid planting these species in the first place, and look for an alternative.

"We want to make it easy for gardeners to make the right choice, so we will have weed experts on hand to advise on alternative plants and pass on handy tips about eradicating nasties that may be lurking in the garden," Ms Anderson said.

Further information:

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