

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Weedbusters and gardeners fight weeds on the home front**

Australian gardeners will join Weedbusters in helping to fight weeds on the home front when the annual national weeds awareness program, Weedbusters Week, gets underway from 6-13 October.

Weedbusters and the nursery industry is joining forces with the Australian Government's Defeating the Weed Menace campaign to help gardeners identify which garden plants can become a problem in their local area and to provide advice on how to manage these plants.

National Weeds Awareness Coordinator Andrew Clark said home gardeners play an important role in protecting Australia's farming and bushland from invasive weeds.

"As you enjoy getting back to work in the garden this spring we ask you to think about which plants are right for your area, and which ones were never meant to grow there," Mr Clark said.

"Some plants can be safe to grow in one area but can be an environmental disaster in another as they overtake native plants and destroy habitats for native wildlife.

"Weeds are often pretty plants that are easy to grow and many gardeners are unaware that some popular plants could be threatening to native plants and animals."

Weedbusters is an awareness program that works with the community to increase awareness of the damage weeds can do to farming land and the environment.

Weedbusters Week events are being hosted around Australia by individuals, schools and community groups to help heighten awareness of the damaging effects of weeds.

The activities include weed clean-up efforts, field days and demonstrations, seminars and displays to assist with weed identification and competitions.

Events can be found or registered at [www.weedbusters.info](http://www.weedbusters.info).

The Australian Government website [www.weeds.gov.au](http://www.weeds.gov.au) highlights the problem of weeds and what individuals can do to prevent their spread into the environment.

On the website gardeners can learn about weeds, identify problem plants in their local area and get simple tips on choosing the right plants and stopping the spread of weeds.

“Many gardeners will be surprised to discover that 65% of the invasive weeds species in the environment have escaped from gardens into adjoining bushland, waterways and national parks,” Mr Clark said.

He said weeds cost Australian agriculture more than \$4 billion a year in lost production and weed control and were responsible for degrading millions of hectares of bush and national parks.

Gardeners seeking further information on Weedbusters Week activities happening in their area can contact their state coordinator. Contact details can be found at [www.weedbusters.info](http://www.weedbusters.info).

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