



## Weeds in Australia

Weeds are a serious issue and cause major problems to the economy, environment, human and animal health, biodiversity, eco-tourism, water quality, recreation, amenity, landscape and are a fire hazard – hence our need to be Fighting the Weed Invaders.

65% of weeds introduced to the Australian landscape are “escapes” from urban parks and gardens; they have a potentially serious impact on Australian native plant and animal species

Six of Australia’s worst invasive weeds have degraded over 20 million ha of grazing and natural lands.

Weeds know no borders. Highly invasive weeds threaten all parts of Australia—including grazing lands, waterways, national parks and urban environments.

There are now over 2,500 species of environmental weeds in Australia, many of which started off as garden ornamentals or were introduced as stock feed, and have since taken over Australian native vegetation and grasses.

### **What is the cost of weeds to Australia?**

The cost of weeds to agriculture in Australia is estimated to be \$4billion annually and escalating; -almost 3 times the cost of salinity (\$1.4billion)

### **What are the Weeds of National Significance (WONS)?**

The table below shows the top 20 weed species that are listed as Weeds of National Significance or WONS species. The WONS species are found throughout various Australian habitats including the tropical north, semi arid areas, coastal lowlands, subalpine areas and our waterways.

They were determined under four major criteria:

- Invasiveness
- Impacts
- Potential for spread

Socio-economic and environmental values

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>
1	Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>
2	Mesquite	<i>Prosopis</i> spp.
3	Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
4	Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
5	Rubber vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>
6	Bitou bush / boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
7	Prickly acacia	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> ssp. <i>indica</i>
8	Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>
9	Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
10	Mimosa pigra	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>
11	Cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
12	Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
13	Athel pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>
14	Willows except weeping willows, pussy willow and sterile pussy willow	<i>Salix</i> spp. except <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. X calodendron</i> and <i>S. X reichardtiji</i>
15	Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
16	Parthenium weed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>
17	Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
18	Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
19	Bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
20	Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>

Additional information can be obtained at [www.weeds.org.au/docs/WONS/](http://www.weeds.org.au/docs/WONS/) and [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)