

Don't keep it to yourself!

Weeds poster

AIM: To communicate the basic issues of spreading weeds and to evaluate what students have learnt

You will need:

- poster paper, and
- craft and art materials.

Although we still have a lot to learn about weeds, there is an enormous amount of information available today. Unfortunately, one of the biggest hurdles to getting weeds under control is that not everyone knows they are a problem. Also, many people think weeds are just problems for farmers, gardeners and perhaps council workers who have to keep the roadsides clear of nuisance plants. If the problem of weeds in Australia is to be tackled, then everyone needs to take some responsibility. Weeds are everyone's problem. It is very important that all people who know something about weeds share their knowledge with others. Everyone with weed knowledge, including children, has a role to play. Don't work alone. Tell other people what you have found out and what needs to be done. Show others what you have achieved and how you did it. Tell them how to avoid spreading weeds.

Let people know which plants may cause problems. Discourage them from dumping garden waste in the bush. Ask people to report new weed invasions to the local council.

Encourage people to check clothing and pet fur for seeds before walking in the bush. Help them plant indigenous plants.

Some methods of doing this are:

- Make posters and display them around the school or at a local library or shopping centre. These posters may show which plants to avoid planting and their impact on the environment.
- Write a letter or article for a local paper or the school newsletter. Write a play or put on a performance about weeds.
- Give talks to other students.
- Take 'Before' and 'After' photographs to record your progress.
- Organise an indigenous plants stall at your next school fete.
- Produce a video, slide set or computer presentation about the weed problems.
- Have a debate about whether people should be able to plant any plants they want to in their gardens.