

RIVERCONNECT - WEEDING ACTIVITY with School Groups



This document has been provided to assist staff members to prepare for the facilitation of a weeding activity. This information has been provided as a guide only.

ACTIVITY 1: Studying the weeds

On site:

1. Look up and study the priority weeds in the 'Weeds of the Goulburn Broken field guide'
2. GPS Plot weeds you find in the table on page 4
3. Collect one weed species to 'show and tell' to the whole group at the end of the session

At School:

1. Read up on the **Victorian noxious weed categories** on Agriculture Victoria website.
 - A. Of the four noxious weed categories, which category has the most potential to cause harm?
 - B. Who is responsible for controlling Regionally Controlled Weeds?

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications>

2. The **Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)** inaugural list was announced jointly by Commonwealth Ministers in 1999. Twelve additional species were added to the WoNS list in April 2012.
 - A. How many weeds are on the WoNS list?
 - B. Which committee reviews the weeds on the WoNS list?

<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/>

ACTIVITY 2: Weed Control

1. Locate and remove the weeds from the river site you are working at.

Equipment:

- Gloves
- Shovel
- Trowel
- Bucket
- Reusable Rubbish bag
- 'Weeds of the Goulburn Broken- a field guide to terrestrial and aquatic weeds' (Goulburn Broken CMA, 2008)

Optional:

- GPS for weed mapping
- Cage 6 x 4 trailer for collecting weeds

PRE EVENT: Permission from the land owner/ manager - Parks Vic or Greater Shepparton City Council, prior to the event. They may have recommendations on target weeds in the area.

On the day:

Discuss with students:

- Health and Safety
 - Watch out for hazards e.g. needles, holes, branches
 - No weeding down by the edge of the river bank
 - Sturdy shoes, gloves.
- Instructions:

Students work in groups of 2 - 3. Tools (such as trowel, clippers or shovel); rubbish bag, bucket or tarpaulin for holding weeds; and a 'Weeds of the Goulburn Broken' field guide.

 - Discuss key species to target – see list on next page
 - Show some examples
 - Groups disperse, remove weeds
 - Empty full bags / tarpaulin of weeds into trailer or make a pile in a designated place

POST EVENT: Contact land owner/ manager (Parks Vic or Greater Shepparton City Council) to collect weeds from site.

Some common weeds along the Goulburn / Broken River:

Date Palm



Peppercorn



Madeira vine



WEED CONTROL

Table 1: Priority weed species for control in the City of Greater Shepparton #

Common name	Botanical name	Victorian noxious weed category	Weed of National Significance (Federal)	Page in Weed book
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Regionally controlled	Yes	20
African love-grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Regionally controlled		9
Bathurst burr	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Regionally controlled		14
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Regionally controlled	Yes	16
Bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted	Yes	21
Caltrop, Bindii	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Regionally controlled		23
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Restricted	Yes	29
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally controlled	Yes	38
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Regionally controlled		41
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Regionally controlled		43
Madeira vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Undeclared	Yes	See below
Paterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally controlled		58
Peppercorn	<i>Schinus molle</i>	Undeclared		See below
Prairie ground cherry	<i>Physalis hederifolia</i>	Regionally controlled		60
Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally prohibited	Yes	64
St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Regionally controlled		69
Sweet briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally controlled		71
Thistle - Artichoke	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Regionally prohibited		73
Thistle - Nodding	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	State prohibited		75
Thistle - Scotch	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Regionally controlled		78
Thistle - Variegated	<i>Sylibum marianum</i>	Regionally controlled		82
Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Undeclared		53

From the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Discussion paper

Other:

Date palm	<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>
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