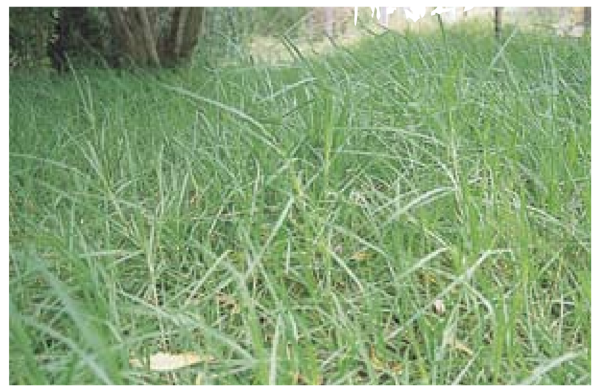
Environmental weeds of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges

Grasses



Kikuyu (eastern Africa)
Pennisetum clandestinum
Flowers spring to autumn. Spread by runners, dumped lawn clippings and garden waste.

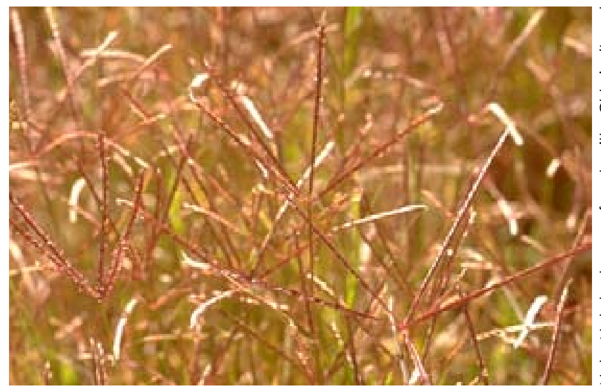
African Feather Grass (sthn Africa) ▲
Pennisetum macrourum
Flowers spring to autumn. Spread by wind and dumped garden waste.

Fountain Grass (eastern Africa)
Pennisetum setaceum
Flowers summer to autumn. Spread by wind, water, people, vehicles and dumped garden waste.

Pampas Grass (South America)
Cortaderia selloana
Flowers most seasons, opportunistically. Spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.

Note: Not to be confused with Bamboo, Common Reed or Pampas Grass

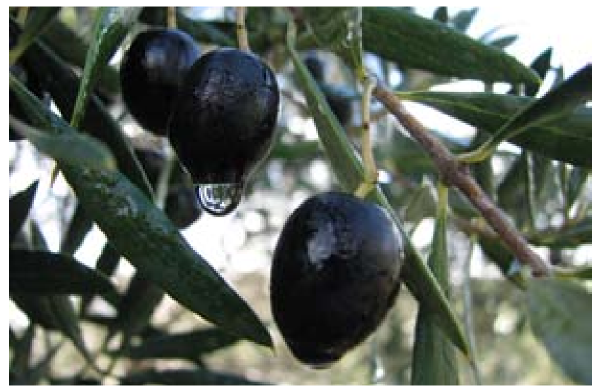
Giant Reed (southern Europe & Asia)
Arundo donax
Flowers late summer. Spread by dumped garden waste (stems and rhizomes) in wet areas.



Note: Not to be confused with Chloris (Local Windmill Grass)

Couch Grass (southern Europe & Mediterranean) ***Cynodon dactylon***
Flowers summer. Spread by wind, water, machinery, dumped lawn clippings or garden waste.

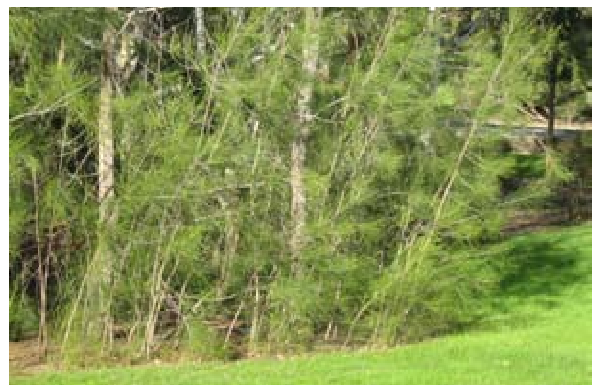
Trees



Olive (Mediterranean) ▲
Olea europaea
Flowers late spring. Spread by birds and foxes.

Note: Not to be confused with local Allocasuarina sp.

Athel Pine (northern Africa & Asia) ▲
Tamarix aphylla
Flowers summer, drops seeds autumn. Spread vegetatively or by seed in wind, water or by animals.

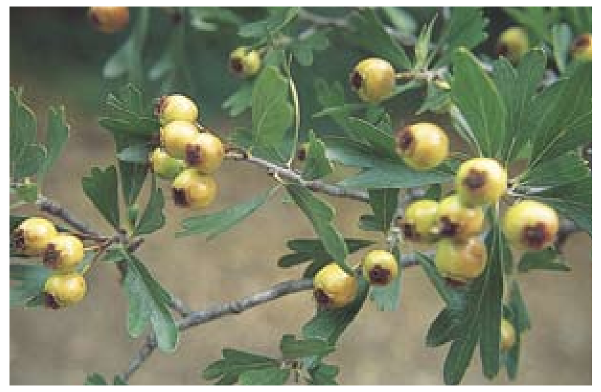


Note: Not to be confused with local Allocasuarina sp.

Swamp Sheoak (coastal NSW & QLD)
Casuarina glauca
Rarely flowers. Spread by prolific production of root suckers, especially in wetter areas.

Sweet Pittosporum (eastern Australia)
Pittosporum undulatum
Flowers spring. Spread by suckers and seeds stuck to animals/people, also by dumped garden waste/soil.

Desert Ash (Mediterranean)
Fraxinus angustifolia
Flowers spring before leaves appear. Spread by seeds and suckers.

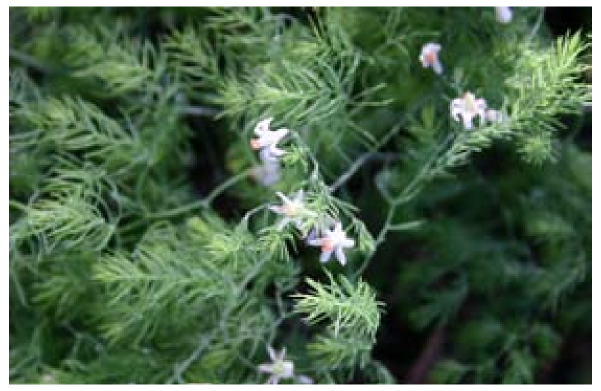


Azzarola Hawthorn (Middle East) ▲
Crataegus sinaica
Flowers spring. Spread by animals (e.g. birds, possums, foxes) and dumped garden waste/soil.

Climbers and Creepers

Bridal Creeper (South Africa) ▲
Asparagus asparagoides
Flowers winter to spring. Spread by birds and dumped garden waste.

Asparagus Fern (southern Africa)
Asparagus scandens
Flowers spring to winter. Spread by birds and dumped garden waste.



Bridal Veil (southern Africa) ▲
Asparagus declinatus
Flowers autumn to winter. Spread by birds and tubers in dumped garden waste.

English Ivy (Europe)
Hedera helix
Flowers late autumn to winter. Spread by birds and dumped garden waste.

Blackberry (Europe) ▲
Rubus spp.
Flowers late spring and summer. Spread by birds, other animals and dumped garden waste.

Morning Glory (pantropical)
Ipomoea indica
Flowers spring to autumn. Spread by dumped garden waste, stem fragments readily take root.

Blue Periwinkle (Mediterranean)
Vinca major
Flowers winter to early summer. Spread by dumped garden waste, stems readily take root.

Blue-bell Creeper (Western Australia)
Billardiera heterophylla
Flowers spring. Spread by birds, foxes and insects, and dumped contaminated soil.

▲ = Declared Plants

Every landowner in South Australia has legal responsibilities to manage declared plants. They are plants that are regulated under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 and are often significant weed threats to our State's primary production industries, natural environments and public safety.

Plant species may be declared under various sections of the NRM Act, relating to:

- Movement
- Sale
- Notification
- Control

Find out what provisions of the NRM Act apply to each declared plant in your area by contacting your regional NRM board or at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa.

What you can do to help

Please study this brochure carefully. You might be surprised at how many species you recognise, as well as how many you might be harbouring in your garden!

Many weed species can be hand pulled, dug out or cut down. Others may require poisoning using registered herbicides. It is important to dispose of garden waste in a way that prevents further spread (some species like the asparagus creepers will need to be sealed in a bag and disposed of when they have died). Use your Council's green waste bin or your compost heap. Removing species before they go to seed is a good way to minimise the risk of spread.

Where can you get information?

For more information about proclaimed weeds and how best to control them, contact your local NRM Board such as the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board on (08) 8273 9100 (Eastwood) or SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board on (08) 8532 1432 (Murray Bridge).

Alternatively, you can visit the Biosecurity SA website at www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa or you can contact their NRM Biosecurity Unit on (08) 8303 9620.

If you need plants identified, the Plant Biodiversity Centre (State Herbarium) (08) 8222 9308 or your local NRM Board officer may be able to assist.

The Urban Biodiversity Unit can provide information on biodiversity conservation, planning and action in urban areas. Phone (08) 8278 0600 or visit www.backyards4wildlife.com.au.

Natural Resource Centres:

Adelaide Hills NRC - (08) 8390 1891
Gawler Regional NRC - (08) 8523 7700
Mt Barker NRC - (08) 8391 7500
Mt Pleasant NRC - (08) 8568 1907
Normanville Catchment Resource Centre - (08) 8558 3644
Strathalbyn NRC - (08) 8536 3137
Victor Harbor NRC - (08) 8551 0541
Willunga Environment Centre Inc - (08) 8556 4188

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www.environment.sa.gov.au

Government of South Australia

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Environmental weeds
Choking our native plants

Backyards 4 Wildlife
www.backyards4wildlife.com.au

For further information:
Urban Biodiversity Unit
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
328 Shepherds Hill Road, Blackwood SA 5051
Phone: (08) 8278 0600
Fax: (08) 8278 0619
Email: info@urbanforest.on.net

This chart has been revised and updated by the Urban Biodiversity Unit. An original version was produced by Landcare South Australia, State Flora, Animal and Plant Control Commission (Primary Industries and Resources SA) and the Mount Lofty Ranges Catchment Program.

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Photographs

David Taylor (Bridal Veil); Jerry Smith (English Ivy, Spanish Heath, Cacti, Desert Ash, Olive); Colin Wilson (Couch Grass, Fennel); A. Dean (Pampas Grass); Katrina Warner SCCG (Agapanthus); Mark Imhof (Gladioli); J. Donnelly (Euryops Daisy); Jackie Crampton (Topped Lavender); Deb Agnew (Athel Pine); Urban Biodiversity Unit (Sand Rocket, Giant Reed, Swamp Sheoak); South Australian Animal and Plant Control Commission; Vivien Freshwater, Friends of Sherbrook Forest; Landcare South Australia; Geofrey Bishop; Darrell Kraehenbuehl; Enid L. Robertson; Gintaras (Ginty) Kubilius; Susan Lawrie (Asparagus); Dragos Moise (Ixia, Sparaxis, Iris); Biosecurity SA (African Feathergrass).

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What is Backyards for Wildlife?

Backyards for Wildlife is an initiative that promotes wildlife friendly gardening using locally native plants.

Suburban gardens make up a large amount of Greater Adelaide. By developing an environmentally friendly garden that uses the five basic principles of *Backyards for Wildlife* there is significant potential for improved conservation of our local flora and fauna.

These five principles include:

1. Use locally native plants.
2. Use plants of differing heights.
3. Provide flowers throughout the year.
4. Manage the impact your pets can have on your garden.
5. Minimise chemical use.

Using local natives also provides broader environmental benefits including less water use and a reduced threat of invasive environmental weeds.

Please consider the impact that your garden can have on our local environment.

Visit **www.backyards4wildlife.com.au** for more information.

What is a weed?

We often think of weeds as those small annoying perennial plants like thistles and sour sobs that grow during the wetter months. However, any plant that is growing at a site where it is not wanted can generally be regarded as a weed. This can include bushes, trees and even native species when they grow outside of their natural range. Weeds often smother and out-compete locally indigenous plants, degrade and destroy unique habitats, and threaten the wildlife dependent on those habitats.

When does a garden plant become a weed?

Australia today is a multicultural country, but it is not only people who have made their home here from around the world. Our gardens are full of plants that originated from across the globe. Some are grown for food or economic gain, others for their flowers or because they remind us of our cultural heritage.

Many common garden plants have escaped into open spaces and native bushland where they threaten the health and value of those areas. Apart from the environmental damage these escapees pose, the substantial expense of removal and control are another cost of weeds. Some garden escapees are already well established in natural areas while others are in the early stages of invasion. We need to halt the progress of these plants and reduce the threat from other potential garden escapees. Plant species that have escaped from our gardens and invaded our bushlands are referred to as environmental weeds.

How do plants become garden escapees?

You may not realise it but your garden could be a source of garden escapees. Many of the plants we grow in our gardens escape to invade our natural bushland. Birds spread seeds after eating berries and fruit, dispersing weeds far and wide. Wind and rain help to disperse seeds, and the dumping of garden waste into natural areas spreads weeds that grow from corms, bulbs and stems.

Environmental weeds of Adelaide and the Mount Lofty Ranges

Shrubs

Boneseed (southern Africa) ▲
Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *monilifera
Flowers winter to spring. Spread by birds, ants and water, also dumped garden waste and soil.

Cotoneasters (nthn Europe & China)
***Cotoneaster* spp.**
Flowers spring. Spread by birds, water and dumped garden waste.

Montpellier Broom (South Africa) ▲
Genista monspessulana
Flowers spring. Spread by animals, people and water.

English Broom (nthn Africa, Europe) ▲
Cytisus scoparius
Flowers spring. Spread by wind, water, animals, machinery, contaminated soil and people.

Note: Not to be confused with the native Pultenaea spp.

Buckthorn (Mediterranean)
Rhamnus alaternus
Flowers early spring. Spread by birds, foxes and potentially possums.

Non-local Wattles (Australia) ***Acacia* spp.**
Some wattles planted outside their natural ranges can become weeds in the AMLR, such as the Cootamundra Wattle, Golden Wreath Wattle, Flinders Ranges Wattle and Coastal Wattle.

Note: Not to be confused with local Wattle species

Spanish Heath (south-western Europe)
Erica lusitanica
Flowers winter to early spring. Spread by wind, water, animals, people and dumped garden waste/soil.

Euryops Daisy (southern Africa)
Euryops abrotanifolius
Can flower most of the year. Spread by dumped garden waste and seed.

Succulents (pantropical)
(e.g. *Agave* spp., *Aloe* spp., *Oportunia* spp.▲)
Flowers and reproductive strategies will vary between species. Spread by their ability to produce new plants from stem cuttings and fragments.

Topped Lavender (Mediterranean)
Lavandula stoechas
Flowers late winter; seeds late spring. Spread by wind, water and dumped garden waste.

Herbs, Bulbs and Corms

Gazania (southern Africa)
***Gazania* spp.**
Flowers most of the year. Spread by wind and water, also dumped garden waste.

Sparaxis (South Africa)
***Sparaxis* spp.**
Flowers spring. Spread by seed, cormels and corms.

Arum Lily (South Africa)
Zantedeschia aethiopica
Flowers late winter to spring. Spread by dumped garden waste and berries spread by birds.

Bulbil Watsonia (South Africa) ▲
Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbilifera
Flowers spring to early summer. Spread by dumped garden waste, soil, water or machinery.

Agapanthus (South Africa)
Agapanthus praecox* ssp. *orientalis
Flowers early summer; seeds summer to autumn. Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.

Ixia (South Africa)
***Ixia* spp.**
Flowers spring and summer. Spread by water and dumped garden waste.

Iris (southern Africa)
***Dietes* spp.**
Flowers summer to autumn. Spread by bulbs and dumped garden waste.

Fennel (sthn Europe & nthn Africa)
Foeniculum vulgare
Flowers all year but mainly in spring; seeds in summer. Spread by seed and dumped garden waste.

Sand Rocket/Lincoln Weed (Europe) ▲
Diplotaxis tenuifolia
Flowers spring to summer; seeds late summer. Spread by wind, water, animals, garden clippings, machinery, hay and fodder.

Gladioli (Africa & Mediterranean)
***Gladiolus* spp.**
Flowers spring to early summer. Spread by corms and cormels, also dumped garden waste.

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Why are garden weeds such a problem?

Garden escapees have the potential to smother or out-compete native plants and therefore drastically change the make up and natural balance of our remnant bushland areas. This can result in serious impacts upon the health and viability of our native wildlife. The uniqueness and special character of our natural areas will be changed and possibly lost forever unless we decide to act now.

Alternatives for garden weeds

With an increased awareness of the need for drought tolerant species, many gardeners are looking to succulents, grasses and Mediterranean plants. Many of these species have the potential to become the next crop of garden escapees. Planting local natives avoids these problems and provides food and habitat for local wildlife.

Originally there were over 850 species of native plants growing across Adelaide, providing a broad range of interesting forms, textures and flowering times. Many of these are available from nurseries (visit www.backyards4wildlife.com.au for a list of native plant growers) and most survive on little more than local rainfall once established.

Other weeds to keep a watch for:

Grasses

- **Phalaris (*Phalaris aquatica*)**
- **Rice Millet (*Piptatherum miliaceum*)**
- **Paspalum (*Paspalum dilatatum*)**
- **Pussy Tail (*Pentaschistis pallida*)**
- **Buffalo Grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*)**
- **Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*)** ▲

Herbs, bulbs and corms

- **Three-Cornered Garlic (*Allium triquetrum*)** ▲
- **Pincushion (*Scabiosa atropurpurea*)**
- **Monadenia (*Disa bracteata*)**
- **Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*/*M. miniata*)** ▲
- **Soursob (*Oxalis pes-caprae*)** ▲

Creepers

- **Wandering Dew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)**
- **Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*)**

Shrubs

- **Mirror Bush (*Coprosma repens*)**
- **Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*)** ▲
- **Cape Honey-flower (*Melianthus major*)**
- **African Furze (*Muraltia heisteria*)**
- **Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*)**
- **Green Poison-berry (*Cestrum parqui*)**
- **Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)** ▲

Trees

- **Cape Leeuwin Wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*)**
- **River Sheoak (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*)**
- **Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)**
- **Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*)** ▲
- **Willows (*Salix* spp.)** ▲
- **Monterey/Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*)**
- **Tree Lucerne (*Chamaecytisus palmensis*)**

Please note, plant species names are subject to change over time. See www.flora.sa.gov.au for former names and recent updates.