What is a Weed?

A weed is a plant growing in the wrong place often out of control. Many of the weeds in Western Australia have come from overseas or other states, where in their native conditions they do not usually pose a problem. However in a new environment, in the absence of natural predators, they can quickly become dominant. Weeds take over bushland, smothering and inhibiting native vegetation, impacting on habitat and food sources that are essential for native animals and bird species. If weeds and grasses are allowed to take over, there is the potential for fire risks, especially on roadside verges. They compete vigorously for available space, crowding out the native species, and in some cases can block waterways. On farm land they can poison stock, affect the usage of land, reduce pasture areas and interfere with hay quality. *We need to get control of them!*

Your Responsibilities...

Whether you have a small block or a large farm, as a landowner the weeds on your property are your responsibility. This leaflet is not a complete list of all the weeds you may have on your land but a selection of the most problematic ones in our area. Some of the listed plants may be "declared" under the Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976. If a plant is declared, all landholders are obliged to control the plant on their properties. Declared plants fall into categories, which define the action required. The category varies over the State, ranging from prohibition or eradication to control, or just preventing the spread into neighbouring areas. A full list of declared plants and their categories can be found at [http://www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au).
Important tips...

1. Always have a management plan for replacing weeds with desirable species.
2. The best, low maintenance strategy is to fill the area with suitable local native plants. Use either tubestock, direct seeding or cover the area with mulch. See 'References' for help.
3. Problems in paddocks are less likely if the pasture is well managed. This includes maintaining beneficial species, seeding or cover the area with mulch.
4. Be aware before you buy hay that you may be bringing in weed seed, such as Paterson's curse and Cape tulip. It is an offence to move or sell hay with declared plant material in it.

N.B. Burning of weeds on road verges may resolve the immediate fire hazard and visual effect of weeds, however, this practice only increases the long term problem. It improves propagation and germination conditions for weeds. Written approval is required from Council prior to burning any Council controlled land, including road verges.

References...


Serpentine-Jarrahdale LCCD. 1999. A Guide to the Control of Declared Plants and Weeds in the Northern Peel Region. Agriculture Western Australia, WA.

Where can you get help?
Dept of Agriculture and Food Bunbury ____________ 9780 6224
Weed control Advice ____________ (Andrew Reeves)
Dept of Agriculture and Food Waroona: 9733 7777
Serpentine Jarrahdale Landcare Centre ____________ 9526 0012
Shire of Boddington: ____________ 9883 8230
Shire of Murray: ____________ 9531 7777
Shire of Waroona ____________ 9733 7800
Waroona Landcare Centre ____________ 9733 6282

Website resources
Department of Agriculture and Food WA
Florabase: The Western Australian Flora

Be aware research is ongoing into the control of weeds. It is always worth contacting your Environmental and Landcare Officers to obtain the latest information. Pamphlets on control of specific weeds are available from the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

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There are Landcare Groups operating in our region. Why not consider joining one of them, even if you have a small block of land. They are a great source of information. Contact your local Landcare Centre for more information. See above for contact details.

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For residents in the Shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Murray, Waroona, Boddington, Narrogin and Williams.

We need to get control of them.

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