



A GUIDE TO  
**WEEDS** in Wyndham



[www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au)

# weeds of RURAL WYNDHAM

A weed is an unwanted plant that requires control action to reduce its impact on agriculture and the environment.

## Wyndham's Priority Weeds

There are some weed species that are a greater threat than others. These high threat weeds can tolerate a wide variety of environmental conditions, have low nutritional feed value for livestock and produce high quantities of seed which can be easily transported via wind, water, animals, soil and/or machinery. This publication identifies some of the more common high threat weeds found in Wyndham and provides tips on how to control them.

## What Council is doing

Wyndham City Council is committed to controlling and reducing the spread of invasive weeds. Council does this by providing incentive and educational programs to help landowners control weeds on their property. Council also controls weeds on land that it owns and manages, including rural roadsides.

If you would like to find out more about Council's weed programs or have a question regarding weed control on your property please contact Wyndham City on 9742 0777.

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Disclaimer: Advice provided in this publication is intended as information only. Herbicides must be used in accordance with the product label and only applied to weed species for which the herbicide is registered for use in Victoria. All weed control action must also comply with other legislative requirements such as the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, Planning & Environment Act 1987 and Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992. Wyndham City Council and its employees do not guarantee that this publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or any other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

## COMMON NAME

# AFRICAN BOXTHORN

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Lycium ferocissimum*

### DESCRIPTION

Erect woody, thorny shrub to four metres tall and three metres wide. Leaves are smooth, fleshy and up to 3.5 cm long. Flowers are white with pale blue markings. Flowers October to March. Berries are green when young and turn orange-red when ripe.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

Prevalent in rural areas around Wyndham. Was once planted as a hedge plant. Large boxthorns can be harbour for pest animals such as rabbits, foxes and starlings. Smaller native bird species may also utilise large plants for shelter.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Control is more cost effective when plants are young. Spot spray plants less than 1 metre tall with woody weed selective herbicide. Cut larger stems at the base and paint immediately with herbicide (glyphosate), pile and burn when dry. Large thickets can be mechanically removed and burnt (Council Outdoor Burn Permit required). Roots will sucker so a follow up application of herbicide will be required.

### CONTROL TIMING

Cut and paint all year round. Avoid mechanical removal when in fruit due to risk of further spread. Spot spray when foliage is lush.



## COMMON NAME

# ARTICHOKE THISTLE

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Cynara cardunculus*

### DESCRIPTION

Tall (1.5 metres) erect perennial thistle with a rosette of spiny greyish-green leaves up to 1 metre across. Flower heads are terminal (situated on stalks), purple to blue in colour and surrounded by a series of stout bracts, each ending in a spiny tip. Flowers late spring to summer.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

Common weed of agricultural paddocks and degraded land throughout Wyndham. Thrives on disturbance so often found growing on embankments around dams, cultivated land and stock encampments.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Spot spray or boom spray with broadleaf selective herbicide. Chip out when small using a mattock or hoe and aim to remove as much of the tap root as possible

### CONTROL TIMING

Spray autumn to spring. Chip out all year round.



## COMMON NAME

# BATHURST BURR

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Xanthium spinosum*

### DESCRIPTION

A short-lived erect herb growing to 60 cm in size. Stems are yellow-green and have triple-throated yellow spines at the base of each leaf and stem node. Leaves are three lobed and shiny and green in colour above, pale green and downy below. Flowers are creamy green, small, inconspicuous and appear February to March. Fruit (burrs) are covered with many small hooked spines and become hard and woody when ripe.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

A summer growing weed often found on cultivated land and within areas of recent disturbance. The weed is widespread in rural Wyndham but does not readily invade intact native vegetation.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Chip out using a mattock or hoe. Spot spray or boom spray using broadleaf selective herbicide.

### CONTROL TIMING

Chip out young plants in spring / early summer or after rain. Boom spray or spot spray early in summer.



## COMMON NAME

# CANE NEEDLE GRASS



## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Nassella hyalina*

## DESCRIPTION

A perennial tussock-forming grass with thick and upright, cane-like stems. Leaves are flat or slightly in-rolled up to 200 mm long. Seeds are relatively small, 4-5 mm, with awns 35-40 mm long. Seeds have a 'corona' or a crown of hard tissue, 1.5 mm in length, at the base of the seed where it connects to the awn. Flowering occurs from mid-spring until early summer. Can appear very similar to native grass species, ensure correct identification before control.

## WHERE IN WYNDHAM

A highly invasive weed of natural pastures. Relatively new to Wyndham but spreading quickly. Already infesting vast areas of farm land around Tarneit, Little River and Point Cook. Seeds are dispersed by livestock, water and machinery. Often first enters a property along stock routes or drainage lines.

## CONTROL OPTIONS

Spot spray with glyphosate or registered selective herbicide. Chip out using a mattock or hoe. Slash prior to hardening of seed.

## CONTROL TIMING

Autumn, winter or before seed set late spring.



## COMMON NAME

# CARPET WEED / BLANKET WEED

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Galenia pubescens* var. *pubescens*

### DESCRIPTION

A greyish-green shrubby groundcover often forming a dense mat. Older plants have a tough woody stem, relatively thick for its size with a deep growing tap root. Leaves are oval or spoon-shaped, hairy and green in colour. Small inconspicuous flowers occur mostly in summer. Petals can be white, greenish-white or pinkish in colour.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

Common on roadsides, in urban areas and rural properties throughout Wyndham. Will grow unhindered in degraded areas and smother vast areas if no active control. Blanket weed is one of the greatest threats to Wyndham's natural areas. Horse paddocks are particularly susceptible to infestation. Seeds spread via livestock, machinery and birds.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Chip out using a mattock or hoe. Plant can be rolled up to expose tap root. Tap root can be pulled out by hand if soil is wet. A selective herbicide registered for use on Galenia is most effective when applied during the spring and summer growth period.

### CONTROL TIMING

All year round.



## COMMON NAME

# CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Nassella neesiana*

### DESCRIPTION

A perennial tussock-forming grass which can form dense infestations. Leaves are green, slightly in-rolled, hairless or sparsely hairy, are 5 mm wide and grow to 30 cm. Flower heads grow to 40 cm in length, have a distinctive purplish colour and often hang to one side of the panicle. Seeds are 8 to 10 mm long, have a 'corona' or crown 1 - 2 mm long and an awn that is twice bent. Can appear very similar to native grass species, ensure correct identification before control.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

An established weed in Wyndham. Common along roadsides, in open space areas and in pasture. Seed is spread by machinery, in particular slashers/mowers, and livestock. Can quickly invade relatively undisturbed areas such as native grasslands and stony rises.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Spot spray with glyphosate or registered selective herbicide. Chip out using a mattock or hoe. Slash prior to hardening of seed.

### CONTROL TIMING

Autumn, winter or before seed set late spring.





## COMMON NAME

# PATERSONS CURSE

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Echium plantagineum*

### DESCRIPTION

Erect annual herb to 60 cm high with purple funnel-shaped flowers. Stems and leaves are hairy. Immature plants distinguished by rosette of green basal. Flowers late winter to summer.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

Isolated populations are found throughout Wyndham. Thrives in disturbed soil.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Spot spray or boom spray with broadleaf selective herbicide. Chip out when rosette using a mattock or hoe. Mature plants can be pulled by hand.

### CONTROL TIMING

Spray autumn to winter prior to flowering. Chip out prior to flowering.



## COMMON NAME

# SERRATED TUSSOCK

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Nassella trichotoma*

### DESCRIPTION

A perennial tussock grass growing to 50 cm with tightly rolled needle-like leaves. Fine serrations on the leaf can be felt if the finger and thumb are carefully pulled along the leaf from tip to base. Flowering occurs late spring and plants may appear purple in colour at this time. Seed heads turn brown in summer, detach from the plant and are easily dispersed by wind. Serrated tussock remains green in summer after other grasses have died off.

### WHERE IN WYNDHAM

A highly invasive and widespread weed in Wyndham. Found throughout the municipality including residential areas. Heavily infests areas around Little River and Quandong. Is a significant threat to agriculture and the environment.

### CONTROL OPTIONS

Chip out using a mattock or hoe. Spot spray using glyphosate or flupropanate. Avoid boom spraying if native grassland vegetation is present. For more information on control visit the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party website – [www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com)

### CONTROL TIMING

Chip out all year round, but ideally before flowering in late spring. Spot spray autumn to spring. Boom spray autumn.



## WYNDHAM PRIORITY WEEDS LIST

PRIORITY RANKING	GROUP DESCRIPTION	Target Weed Species*	
		Common Name	Scientific Name
1	All State and Regionally Prohibited Weeds	Visit Department of Agriculture website for complete list of State and Regionally Prohibited Weeds (see Website list on back page).	
2	Highly invasive but yet to be established Regionally Controlled Weeds in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment	African Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>
		Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
		Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
		Cape Tulip	<i>Moraea miniata</i>
		Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
		Tufted Honeyflower	<i>Melianthus comosus</i>
		Tiger Pear	<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i>
3	Highly invasive and established Regionally Controlled Weeds in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment	African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
		Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>
		Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>
		Patersons Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
		Prairie Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis viscosa</i>
		Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
4	All Other Regionally Controlled Weeds in the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment	Visit Department of Agriculture website for complete list of State and Regionally Prohibited Weeds (see Website list on back page).	
5	Highly invasive environmental weeds	African Thistle	<i>Berkheya rigida</i>
		Blue Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
		Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
		Carpet Weed	<i>Galenia pubescens var. pubescens</i>
		Cane Needle Grass	<i>Nassella hyalina</i>
		Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
		Other Needle Grass species	<i>Nassella spp.</i>
		Wandering Trad	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>

\* The species listed in this table are those which Council officers consider to be a significant threat to Wyndham's agriculture and environment. This list is by no means exhaustive and consequently some significant weed species may have been omitted or overlooked.

For more information on weeds in Wyndham contact:  
Wyndham City Council's Environment Unit on (03) 9742 0777

For more information on listed noxious weeds for Victoria contact the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources on 136 186 or visit the Invasive Plant Classifications webpage -  
<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications>

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## Useful Resources:

### BOOKS:

Weeds of the South East – an identification guide for Australia. Richardson, F.J., Richardson, R.G. and Shepherd, R.C.H., 2007, Meredith, Victoria.

Noxious Weeds of Australia. Parsons, W. and Cuthbertson, E., 1992.

WEEDeck. Sainty and Associates Pty Ltd, [www.sainty.com.au](http://www.sainty.com.au)

### NATIVE VEGETATION:

Flora of Melbourne – 4th Edition: A Guide to the Indigenous Plants of the Greater Melbourne Area. Bull, M. illustrated by Stolfo, G. Hyland House Publishing Pty Limited, 2014

Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains: A Gardener's Guide to the Original Flora. Australian Plants Society, Keilor Plains Group, 2012

### WEBSITES:

Invasive Plant Classifications, Department of Agriculture - <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/invasive-plant-classifications>

Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party – [www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com)

Weeds Australia – Weed Identification – [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

Weed Identification Tool - Australian Government – [www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weedidtool.pl](http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/weedidtool.pl)

Weed Society of Victoria – [www.wsvic.org.au](http://www.wsvic.org.au)