

# JR FACT FILE

BORN TO EXPLORE



## PEST PLANTS AND WEEDS



### What is a weed?

A weed is a plant that is growing where it's not wanted. They're often found growing in gardens and on farms and easily spread to rivers, lakes, national parks and nature reserves.

Sometimes plants from your garden can become serious weeds. A characteristic of weeds is that they can adapt easily to new soils, grow in areas of extreme weather and reproduce rapidly.

### Weeds are a problem for many reasons.

- They reduce the amount of land available for native plants and animals by taking over bushland,
- They may be poisonous to animals if eaten and can lead to allergies in humans,
- They can threaten farming industries.
- Some exotic grasses can create high fuel loads that can cause greater bushfire intensity.

### Did you know?

Many weeds can produce large amounts of seed which help their spread via wind, waterways, people (bottom of shoes), vehicles, birds and other animals. Willow trees for example have winged seeds that are carried on the wind tens of kilometres from their source.

### What can you do?

When weeds become a problem in your school or garden it can be very helpful to develop a weed management plan.

Things to include in a weed management plan include: learning about weeds in your area and how they are spread. Tell people about weeds and discuss problems and solutions.

Your local council should have information on weeds in your area. Check their website or give them a call.

### Tips

Make sure plants in your garden don't become a problem in the local environment by replacing invasive plants with non-invasive plants. There is a list on the following page to help you.

Never dump garden clippings and weeds in the bush. Use a council provided green waste bin or put them into compost.

You and your family might like to join a Coastcare, Landcare or Friends group to tackle weeds in a park and on public land in your area.



**REMEMBER!** When out in the garden wear sun protection and gloves.

COMMON WEEDS	REPLACEMENT PLANTS
Agapanthus ( <i>Agapanthus spp.</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swamp Lily (<i>Crinum pedunculatum</i>)</li> </ul>
Arum Lily ( <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pale Flax-lily (<i>Dianella longifolia</i>)</li> </ul>
Blackberry ( <i>Rubus fruticosus aggregate</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native Raspberry (<i>Rubus rosifolius</i>)</li> </ul>
Blue periwinkle ( <i>Vinca major</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Native Sarsaparilla</u> (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> 'Happy Wanderer')</li> </ul>
Broom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English (<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>)</li> <li>Flax leaf (<i>Genista linifolia</i>)</li> <li>Montpellier (<i>Genista monspessulana</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slender Bitter-pea (<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>)</li> <li>Golden Spray (<i>Viminaria juncea</i>)</li> </ul>
Bridal Creeper ( <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Native Sarsaparilla</u> (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> 'Happy Wanderer')</li> </ul>
Common Holly ( <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holly Osmanthus (<i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i>)</li> </ul>
English Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native Clematis (<i>Clematis aristata</i> or <i>Clematis microphylla</i>)</li> <li><u>Native Sarsaparilla</u> (<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i> 'Happy Wanderer')</li> </ul>
Mirror Bush ( <i>Coprosma repens</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boobialla (<i>Myoporum insulare</i>)</li> </ul>
Spanish Heath ( <i>Erica lusitanica</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common Heath (<i>Epacris impressa</i>)</li> </ul>

**For more information, replacement plant ideas and disposal methods:**

- Contact your local council.
- [www.weedbusters.info](http://www.weedbusters.info)
- [www.weeds.gov.au](http://www.weeds.gov.au)
- [www.growmeinstead.com.au](http://www.growmeinstead.com.au)

### Junior Ranger Weed I.D.



Agapanthus  
*Agapanthus spp.*



Arum Lily  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica*



With flower



Blue Periwinkle  
*Vinca major*



Bridal Creeper  
*Asparagus asparagoides*



English broom  
*Cytisus scoparius*



Flax leaf broom  
*Genista linifolia*



Montpellier broom  
*Genista monspessulana*



With fruit

Blackberry  
*Rubus fruticosus aggregate*



Common Holly  
*Ilex aquifolium*



Mirror Bush  
*Coprosma repens*



English Ivy  
*Hedera helix*



Spanish Heath  
*Erica lusitanica*