

JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE



Wildlife Warrior

Our park rangers have the very important job of protecting our unique plants and animals, many of which aren't found anywhere else in the world, and some nowhere else in Australia. Wow! So how do they go about doing that?

A lot of the time it's about making sure the habitat is healthy and sometimes it may even be about keeping our wildlife safe from other plants and animals (including us humans!).

Weed them out...

Explore your garden or park and record 5 things you see that might harm our native wildlife (e.g. litter, animals or weeds).

Weed detective



Weeds are plants that are growing in the wrong place. Often they can grow so fast they can cover the ground and stop other plants from growing or they can take all the water and food so that our native plants die. Our rangers have to control the weeds as much as they can. This isn't easy.

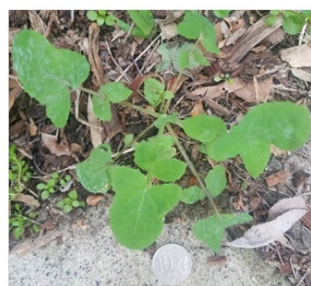
How can I tell my weeds apart?

We can identify plants by looking at its leaves, flowers, stem and the way that it grows. Use these clues to see if you can match up these weeds to its description and circle the correct answer under each photo.

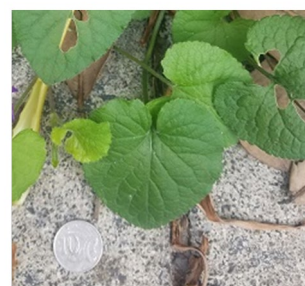
- A. My leaves are heart-shaped and the veins grow out from the middle where it joins with the stem.
- B. My leaves are small and round and they grow in pairs opposite each other from the stem.
- C. My leaves are club-shaped at the end of the stem and have toothed edges. The stems fan out from the ground.



A B C



A B C



A B C



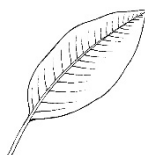
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If we look more closely at plants we can see lots of interesting features. They can make great art too!

1. Choose a plant from your garden or some green leaves and coloured petals from the ground around where you live (you might need an adult to help).
2. Take a folded sheet of white paper, an old light-coloured t-shirt or a small piece of scrap metal and something hard to hit it with such as a mallet, rolling pin (if parents allow) or a small rock.
3. Lay out your plants between your paper sheets or inside your t-shirt. Place a piece of cardboard underneath. You can arrange your plants in a pattern or randomly as shown.
4. Crush the leaves by carefully hitting them with your object (mind your fingers) until you start to see a pattern come through. This Japanese technique is called *Hapa Zome* which translates to 'leaf dye'. Some plants work better than others, so have fun experimenting!
5. Send in photos of your designs to juniorrangers@parks.vic.gov.au. We'd love to see them (ha ha!).



Examples of "HAPA ZOME"



Want to do more? Why not find out if you have some weeds in your garden, or a neighbour's or family member's yard? See if you can help with a spot of weeding on the weekend.



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