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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Top Parks and Wildlife staff managing the spread of kapok bush near the lighthouse, Exmouth. Photo – Parks and Wildlife **Centre** Mexican poppy. Photo – Geoff Byrne **Left** Lantana. Photo – Parks and Wildlife



Why are weeds a problem along the Ningaloo Coast?

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area (NCWHA) was inscribed on the World Heritage list in 2011 for its globally outstanding natural beauty and high biological diversity. Many native plants in the area are only found along the Ningaloo Coast, and are a key reason for the inscription. The impacts of weeds on such plants within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area has been identified as a significant concern.

Where do weeds occur along the Ningaloo Coast?

Weeds commonly occur along the Ningaloo coast

in disturbed areas such as:

- roadsides
- drainage lines
- car parks
- cleared building sites
- new housing developments.

Weeds can also be found along creek lines, in gorges and across flood plains.

MANY OF THE WEEDS KNOWN IN THE AREA ARE GARDEN ESCAPEES.

Weeds threatening the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area are identified in the table overleaf.

What is a weed?

Weeds are plants that are not native to an area.

Weeds are often excellent at surviving and reproducing in disturbed environments and are commonly the first species to colonise and dominate in these conditions. Australian native plants can also become weeds within Australia when species move from their natural habitat into new areas where they have a competitive advantage over indigenous plants.

Weeds typically produce large numbers of seeds, assisting their spread. Seeds are spread into natural and disturbed environments via wind, waterways, birds and other animals, wheels of vehicles and machinery, and people through clothing, footwear and careless dumping of garden waste.

Weed invasions are a serious threat to Australia's natural environment. They change the natural diversity and balance of ecological communities. Invasive weeds displace native species, competing for space, nutrients and sunlight.

Above Kapok bush. Photo – John English
Below Thornapple. Photo – Geoff Byrne



Weed management and prevention

Invasive weeds affecting areas within the NCWHA require permanent monitoring and management. The Department of Parks and Wildlife and the shires of Exmouth and Carnarvon have weed management practices in place, however we require your assistance in managing invasive weeds within our community.

Prevention along our coast

Please help minimise the spread of weeds by checking the following before entering a national park or going onto an island:

- your footwear and clothing
- your equipment
- your vessel and caravan for seeds.

If you see seeds, wash down vehicles or equipment before entering these areas.

Prevention in our backyard

There are a large number of potential weeds in Australian gardens. Private gardens contain more than 4000 plant species with weed potential. To help minimise the spread of weeds in your backyard:

- Choose native plants that are unlikely to become weeds in your area.
- Check existing garden plants are safe.
- Be careful not to spread weeds.
- Place mulch on soil surfaces in the garden to reduce weed growth.
- Remove potentially weedy plants.
- Dispose of garden waste carefully.*

(*Contact your local shire for appropriate disposal methods)



Above Lantana. Photo – Geoff Byrne

Who to contact

For any weed sightings please contact:
Parks and Wildlife - Exmouth Office (08) 9947 8000.
Shire of Exmouth (08) 9949 1699
Shire of Carnarvon (08) 9941 0000



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Front cover Kapok bush. Photo – Brian Carter

Information current at August 2016.
This information is available in alternative formats on request.



Weeds in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



Above Ruby dock. Photo – John English
Right Kapok bush. Photo – Geoff Byrne

Weeds threatening the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area

<div>Species</div> <div>KAPOK BUSH <i>(Aerva javanica)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shrubby perennial herb up to 1.6m• Dense covering of star-like hairs on stems and on alternate clusters of leaves• Distinctive clusters of predominately white flowers, to 3mm long• Flowers most of the year</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by wind.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>LANTANA <i>(Lantana camara)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sprawling thicket-forming wide perennial shrub up to 5m high or climber up to 15m high• Leaves have an unpleasant odour when crushed• Fruit ripens from green to shiny purple-black• Flowers are tubular and multi-coloured: cream, yellow, orange, red, pink, purple• Flowers most of the year</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread mainly by birds.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>RUBY DOCK <i>(Rumex vesicarius L.)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erect, succulent annual herb up to 1m high• Fibrous roots, succulent and broadly triangular leaves and winged fruits• Flowers tinged bright pink in clusters, up to 2cm• Flowers autumn to early summer</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by wind and moving water.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>STINKING PASSION FLOWER <i>(Passiflora foetida)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climbing or scrambling vine up to 9m high• Spiny leaves, stems and fruit, which are yellow-orange when ripe• Flowers cream-white with a purple centre• Flowers most of the year</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by birds and humans.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>MEXICAN POPPY <i>(Argemone ochroleuca)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erect, prickly, robust annual herb, up to 1m high• Leaves mottled white and dark green• Pale cream-yellow flowers, yellow sap• Flowers all year round</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by moving water, contaminated soil, vehicles and livestock.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>WOOLLY RATTLEPOD <i>(Crotalaria incana)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erect annual herb to 3m high• Yellow flowers• Hairy small sausage-shaped greenish-brown pods</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Spread by seed which eject from pods when ripe.</div></div>
<div>Species</div> <div>PARKINSONIA <i>(Parkinsonia aculeata)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large hardy spiny shrub or small tree, up to 8m high• Green, drooping, zigzag narrow branches• Leaves long on a spine• Fragrant yellow flowers• Flowers most of the year• Fruit is an elongate, almost straight pod and pale brown or yellow-brown at maturity</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread in pods by moving water after heavy rain and by machinery.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>CORAL CACTUS <i>(Cylindropuntia fulgida)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bizarre-looking erect sprawling cactus (shrub), up to 1m high• Often distorted with a corrugated surface• Sausage-shaped lumpy stems with numerous, easily detached small segments.• Rarely flowers/fruits, deep red in colour• Small white/cream spiky bristles</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Segments spread by moving water. Segments grow roots where they touch the ground.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>BUFFEL GRASS <i>(Cenchrus ciliaris)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tufted erect or spreading grass-like perennial up to 1.5m high with a tough rootstock• Purplish flower head in a dense and hairy, cylindrical spike shape, forming soft purple burs• Flowers most of the year</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by wind, moving water, livestock and machinery.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>CALTROP <i>(Tribulus terrestris)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• A low spreading annual herb with stems to 2m long• Darks green upper leaves• Very spiny roundish fruits• Small yellow star-shaped flowers• Flowers most of the year</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by spines on fruits picked up by animals, shoes and vehicle tyres.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>RATTLE TREE <i>(Leucaena leucocephala)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dense shrub or tree, up to 6m high• Large distinctive brown seed pods• Round greenish yellow or white flower heads• Flowers March to August</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by wind, moving water, machinery, in cattle manure and contaminated soil.</div></div>	<div>Species</div> <div>THORNAPPLE <i>(Datura leichhardtii)</i> <i>(Datura innoxia)</i></div> <div></div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erect bushy hairy herb up to 1m high and 2m wide• Distinctive spiny and green round fruits• Trumpet shaped white to lavender flowers• Flowers most of the year• Highly toxic</div> <div></div> <div><div>Dispersal</div><div>Seeds spread by moving water, muddy vehicles or machinery and as a contaminant of crop seed.</div></div>