

## **Weeds and Threatened Flora**

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There are 1,233 naturalized vascular plant taxa recorded for Western Australia, composed of 12 Ferns, 15 Gymnosperms, 345 Monocotyledons and 861 Dicotyledons. Of these, 677 taxa (55%) are environmental weeds, recorded from natural bushland areas. Another 94 taxa are listed as semi-naturalised garden escapes. Most are herbaceous annuals or grasses with the largest groups being the Poaceae (196), Asteraceae (115), Papilionaceae (106) and Iridaceae (53). The largest numbers of weeds are recorded from the natural regions encompassing the capital Perth, with 801 and 705 recorded for the Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest Bioregions respectively.

Recently DEC has completed a State-wide prioritization process on all weeds and their effects on biodiversity values, including threatened flora. There are at least 123 weeds that occur with, directly compete with or detrimentally alter the habitat of threatened flora. Of these 22 (mainly grasses and bulbous species) are serious threats to the persistence of threatened flora and will require asset based plans to lessen their impact.

# Threatened Species Research Forum



Western Australian Ecology Centre

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A Review of WA Government Research into Threatened Species