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

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. Weeds are often excellent at surviving and reproducing in disturbed environments.

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 in the area.

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 carless dumping of garden waste.

What is a weed?
Weeds are plants that are not native to an area.

Weeds threatening the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area



Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions



NINGALOO COAST
WORLD HERITAGE

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

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

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

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

Weeds commonly occur along the Ningaloo Coast in disturbed areas such as:

Where do weeds occur along the Ningaloo Coast?

Many native plants in the area are only found along the Ningaloo Coast. The impact of weeds on plants found within the World Heritage area has been identified as a significant concern.

Why are weeds a problem along the Ningaloo Coast?

The Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2011 for its outstanding natural beauty and biological diversity.

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



Weed management and prevention

Invasive weeds affecting areas within the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area require permanent monitoring and management. DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service and the shires of Exmouth and Carnarvon have weed management practices in place, however your assistance is vital in managing invasive weeds within the community.

Prevention along the coast

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

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

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

Prevention in your backyard

More than 4000 plant species found within Australian private gardens have the potential to become weeds if released into the natural environment. 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 Ruby dock. Photo – John English
Right Kapok bush. Photo – Geoff Byrne

Above Lantana. Photo – Geoff Byrne

Who to contact

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



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Front cover main Ningaloo Coast. Photo – Tony Howard
Front cover inset top Staff spraying for weeds. Photo – DBCA
Front cover middle Coral cactus. Photo – Phillipa Wilson

Information current at February 2018.
This information is available in alternative formats on request.

Weeds threatening the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area

Species

KAPOK BUSH <i>(Aerva javanica)</i>	LANTANA <i>(Lantana camara)</i>	RUBY DOCK <i>(Rumex vesicarius L.)</i>	STINKING PASSION FLOWER <i>(Passiflora foetida)</i>	MEXICAN POPPY <i>(Argemone ochroleuca)</i>	WOOLY RATTLEPOD <i>(Crotalaria incana)</i>
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Distinguished by

<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 	<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 	<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 	<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 	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect annual herb to 3m high • Yellow flowers • Hairy small sausage-shaped greenish-brown pods
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Dispersal

Seeds spread by wind.	Seeds spread mainly by birds.	Seeds spread by wind and moving water.	Seeds spread by birds and humans.	Seeds spread by moving water, contaminated soil, vehicles and livestock.	Spread by seeds which eject from pods when ripe.
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Species

PARKINSONIA <i>(Parkinsonia aculeata)</i>	CORAL CACTUS <i>(Cylindropuntia fulgida)</i>	BUFFEL GRASS <i>(Cenchrus ciliaris)</i>	CALTROP <i>(Tribulus terrestris)</i>	RATTLE TREE <i>(Leucaena leucocephala)</i>	THORNAPPLE <i>(Datura leichhardtii)</i> <i>(Datura innoxia)</i>
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Distinguished by

<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 elongated, almost straight pod and pale brown or yellow-brown at maturity 	<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 spikey bristles 	<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 	<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 	<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 	<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
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Dispersal

Seeds spread in pods by moving water after heavy rain and by machinery.	Segments spread by moving water. Segments grow roots where they touch the ground.	Seeds spread by wind, moving water, livestock and machinery.	Seeds spread by spines on fruits picked up by animals, shoes and vehicle tyres.	Seeds spread by wind, moving water, machinery, in cattle manure and contaminated soil.	Seeds spread by moving water, muddy vehicles or machinery and as a contaminant of crop seed.
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