

# Become weed aware!

## HANDY HINT

A very effective way to control weeds is to remove the flower head before it seeds.



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## what is a weed?

A weed is a plant that is growing outside its original location and is threatening to both agriculture and biodiversity. Weeds can be:

- Introduced from other countries or from other regions of Australia
- Grasses, shrubs and trees

Examples of weeds in the Leigh Catchment from other countries are Gorse, Blackberry, Patterson's Curse, Serrated Tussock. Examples of weeds in the Leigh Catchment from other parts of Australia are Cootamundra Wattle, Coastal Wattle.

## why are weeds such a problem?

Weeds are a problem because they:

- Invade native bushland
- Reduce wildlife habitat values
- Invade valuable agricultural land
- Provide havens for pest animal species
- Cause injury to stock
- Can be poisonous to stock and humans

## who's responsible for control?

Under the Catchment Management Act 1994, all landowners and public land managers are responsible for weed control and management on their property. The entire community is affected by weeds and has a moral responsibility to manage weeds at the local level.

## how should I control my weeds?

The most common way to control weeds is by:

- Physical removal
- Herbicide spraying
- Cut and paint method
- Solarisation (cover weed infestation with black plastic)
- Pasture improvement and/or revegetation.

Weed identification and early control is a major aspect of weed control.

Avoid growing invasive species such as Agapanthus in gardens as they often escape into the countryside.

For advice and assistance with identification and control methods contact your local Landcare Pest Plant and Animal Officer.

## species that pose a major threat

Other weeds that have been identified as a major threat to the Leigh Catchment include various Thistles, various Broom species, Spanish Heath, Boxthorn, Bridal Creeper and Willows.

### Leigh Catchment Group

The Leigh Catchment Group is made up of nine Landcare groups within the Leigh Catchment, which lies south of Ballarat towards Geelong.

As a Landcare network, the Group encourages working together to achieve sustainable ecosystems, agriculture and communities.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare with the Leigh Catchment you can contact us on (03) 5341 2364 or email [leighcgroup@ncable.net.au](mailto:leighcgroup@ncable.net.au)



Leigh Catchment Group

