

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Weed ID Deck



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT

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Introduction

The Northern Territory comprises many different landscapes, each rich in diverse flora and fauna. Weeds are one of the principal threats to the health and productivity of these environments.

Weed monocultures, such as those created by gamba grass and mimosa, also significantly diminish the aesthetic and biodiversity value of natural landscapes and affect tourism, fishing and other recreational activities.

Weeds in the Northern Territory cost land managers millions of dollars each year, through control costs and lost productivity. Early detection and prevention are the most cost effective control methods and have long-term economic and environmental benefits.

The aim of the Weed ID Deck is to provide a tool to assist the community in the early identification, reporting and control of a range of weeds that threaten the Northern Territory, including high priority alert weeds and other more commonly encountered species.



How to use the Weed ID Deck



Cards are arranged and colour coded into six categories based on growth form: trees, shrubs, herbs, vines, grasses and aquatics. Each card provides colour photographs of a weed species and describes key attributes, allowing for identification at different life stages. There is also information on habitat, method of spread and optimal treatment time.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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The darker the box, the better the time it is to treat the weed.

If you suspect you have discovered a plant that is listed in the Weed ID Deck, you can contact the Weed Management Branch for positive identification and advice, particularly when the species has a 'report immediately if found' notice.

For information relating to treatment options including suitable chemicals and concentrations, refer to the Northern Territory Weed Management Handbook, available from the Northern Territory Weed Management Branch.

How to get assistance to identify weeds

Plants are generally identified either from samples or photographs. Consider taking good quality photographs of plants you wish to have identified to reduce the risk of inadvertent weed spread.

Identification can be aided by photographing or recording as many botanical details as possible, including reproductive structures. This may include the size and growth form, leaf arrangements, spines, flowers, fruits, seeds, pods and the presence and colour of sap.

Sometimes a sample is required to make a positive identification.

When it is necessary to collect plant samples:

1. Collect the entire plant where practical.
2. Place samples between paper and press together to prevent damage from mould and mildew.
3. Transport samples in sealed containers (e.g. ziplock or plastic bag) to prevent inadvertent spread from seeds and other plant parts.
4. Record information about the location including habitat and other plants growing nearby. Where possible GPS or record the exact location to assist any follow-up control which may be required.

Legend



Weeds of National Significance

Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) are identified as Australia's worst invasive plants.



Current Threat

Plants already present in the Northern Territory (NT) and causing economic, environmental, or cultural problems.

Alert Weed

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND

Plants with the potential to significantly negatively impact the NT. Either under eradication or not yet established in the NT.



Spines or thorns

Key Features

Spines or thorns on the stems or leaves.



Burrs

Spiny burrs readily attach to vehicles, animals and clothing.



Sap

Releases a milky or clear sap when a leaf or stem is damaged.



Toxic

Poisonous to humans or animals.

Legend

Leaf Arrangements

Take note of how the leaves are arranged on the plant. This is a useful and reliable aid to identification.

Simple leaves are the most common. Leaves are whole and usually have a stalk attaching them to the stem.

Basal rosette includes the leaves of grasses and many other plants that grow directly from the base.

Compound leaves consist of two to many leaflets with a regular arrangement (e.g. many ferns). A compound leaf has a bud where the main leaf stalk meets the stem. Leaflets never have buds.

Other leaf types include needles (pine trees and she-oaks), flattened stems (cactus) and fans (cabomba).



Simple leaf,
alternate



Simple leaf,
opposite



Basal rosette
or grass-like



Pinnate
(once divided)



Bipinnate
(twice divided)



Needles



Flattened Stems



Fan

Legend



Declaration Status

The *Weeds Management Act 2001* is administered by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment. There are three categories of weeds defined under the Act:

Class A - To be eradicated.

Class B - Growth and spread to be controlled.

Class C - Not to be introduced to the NT.

Note: All Class A and B weeds are also considered Class C under the Act.

Distribution Maps



Weed may
be found
in all of NT



Weed may
be found in
northern NT



Weed may
be found in
southern NT

Legend

Can be confused with

If you find a plant that matches the description of a weed in this ID deck, you can check similar species by consulting with local land management professionals who have a working knowledge of these species.

If unsure, contact the Northern Territory Weed Management Branch at weedinfo@nt.gov.au, or on 08 8999 4567.

The Northern Territory Herbarium can also provide assistance with identifying plants and can be contacted at herbarium@nt.gov.au, or on 08 8999 4516.



Athel pine



Flower



Branch



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A and B



TREE

Athel pine *Tamarix aphylla*



Description: Large spreading tree to 18 m tall with rough, dark brown bark. Leaves and branches hang downwards and although not a true pine or conifer, the stems with minute leaves give the appearance of pine needles. Tiny white and pink flowers are arranged in a dense spiral on stems. Bell-shaped seed capsules 3 mm long.

Habitat: Invasive in arid and semi-arid rangelands. Tolerant of saline and alkaline soils, and flourishes in and around rivers.

Spread by: Humans, wind, water, floods and machinery. Can be spread by broken pieces of stem.

Flowering time: December to March.

Origin: Northern Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, Iran and India.

Declaration status:
Class A and B. Refer to nt.gov.au/weeds for details.

Optimum Treatment Time:

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Brazilian pepper



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A and B

TREE

Brazilian pepper *Schinus terebinthifolius*

Description: Sprawling shrub or erect tree to 6 m (rarely to 15 m). Bark grey with vertical cracking on older stems. Leaves to 22 cm long, once divided with 5-17 leaflets in opposite pairs with one terminal leaflet, dark green above, paler below. Branchlets not hanging. Flowers white to cream. Fruit 5-6 mm diameter, green turning red when mature. Leaves and fruit smell peppery when crushed.

Habitat: Favours sub-tropical climate, grows in drylands, swamps and mangrove fringes. Has not shown invasive behaviour in Central Australia.

Spread by: Animals, birds, water and humans.

Flowering time: Flowering all year round with flushes in autumn and spring.

Origin: South America.

Declaration status: Class A and B. Refer to nt.gov.au/weeds for details.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Chinee apple



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

TREE

Chinee apple *Ziziphus mauritiana*

Description: Large shrub or small spreading tree 3-6 m tall with a dark grey to black bark. Stems have fine hairs and zigzag with a leaf and thorn at each angle. Leaves rounded with a toothed margin, and are glossy green above and woolly and white underneath. Cream flowers occur in small, inconspicuous clusters. Round, edible fruit turn from green to yellow and are reddish-brown when ripe.

Can be confused with:

Ziziphus quadriloculare (native)

Ziziphus jujuba (cultivated)

Habitat: Occurs on a wide range of soil and vegetation communities including river levees, monsoon forest and alluvial flats.

Spread by: Animals, birds and humans.

Flowering time: Wet Season.

Origin: Southern Asia and eastern Africa.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Coffee bush



Flower



Seed pods



CURRENT THREAT

TREE

Coffee bush *Leucaena leucocephala*

Description: Small tree to 6 m. Leaves dark green, twice divided, feather-like with many pairs of oblong leaflets. Flowers cream in single or paired globular heads. Pods conspicuous, pale to dark brown, oblong and flat. Forms dense thickets.

Habitat: Disturbed or degraded land. Edges of mangroves and monsoon forest.

Spread by: Wind, water and humans.

Flowering time: Flowers and fruits all year round.

Origin: Central and South America.

Declaration status: Not declared.

Optimum Treatment Time:

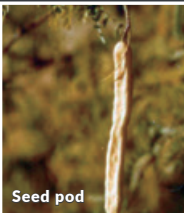
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Mesquite



Flower



Seed pod



Leaf



Thorn



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A



TREE

Mesquite *Prosopis* spp.



Description: Tree or multi-stemmed shrub to 5-10 m. Stems are red or maroon armed with pairs of spines. Leaves are pale green, twice divided with many oblong leaflets 4-9 mm long. Yellow flowers in spikes 5-7 cm long. Pods are 12-20 cm long and flat, starting off bright green in colour and browning off as they mature. 10-20 seeds per pod.

Can be confused with:

Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*)
Mimosa bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*)

Habitat: Found on heavier clay and loam soils.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: May to July.

Origin: North and South America.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

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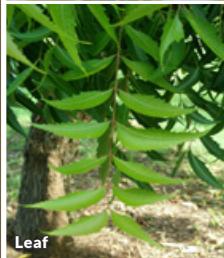
Neem



Flower



Fruit



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

TREE

Neem *Azadirachta indica*

Description: Tree to 15 m with dark red-brown bark that cracks and flakes when mature. Compound leaves, 15-35 cm long divided into 20-30 dark green curved leaflets with serrated margins. Leaves have a pungent smell when crushed. Small white honey-scented flowers in sprays to 30 cm. Fruit fleshy, 1-2 cm long, yellow when ripe, containing 1 seed.

Can be confused with:

White cedar (*Melia azedarach*)

Curry bush (*Murraya koenigii*)

Habitat: Planted around settlements and towns, invades monsoon forest, riparian and woodland areas above 700 mm annual rainfall.

Spread by: Animals, birds and humans.

Flowering time: Early Wet Season.

Origin: Indian Subcontinent.

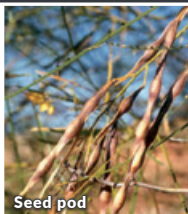
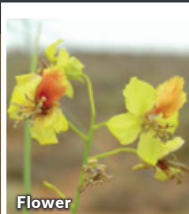
Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

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Parkinsonia



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

TREE

Parkinsonia *Parkinsonia aculeata*



Description: Spreading tree to 6 m, with bright green zig-zagging stems and sharp, woody thorns. Needle-like leaves to 20 cm long with two rows of tiny, numerous oval leaflets, 1-3 mm long. Flowers small, yellow with five petals occurring in clusters. Pods green, ripening to pale brown, 5-10 cm long with constrictions between hard, oval seeds.

Can be confused with:

Mimosa bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*)

Habitat: Along water courses, floodplains and watering points. Suited to most soils.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water and vehicles.

Flowering time:

September to November.

Origin: South America.

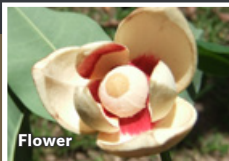
Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

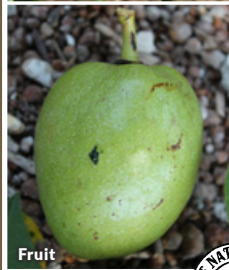
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Pond apple



Flower



Fruit



Bark



Leaf



Stems

ALERT WEED
Declared Class A



TREE

Pond apple *Annona glabra*



Description: Tree to 8 m capable of forming thickets. End of stems green, stems otherwise grey with small white raised dots. Leaves glossy green above and bluish grey-green below. Cream-white flowers 3 cm wide with 3 leathery outer petals marked with a bright red spot near base. Firm, green fruit from 5-15 cm containing 100-150 pumpkin-like seeds.

Can be confused with:

Custard apples, sugar apples
(*Annona* spp.)

Habitat: Invades seasonally inundated wetlands, mangroves, swamps, creeks and rivers.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and water.

Flowering time: October to March.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Prickly acacia



Flower



Seed pod



Leaves and spines



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A



TREE

Prickly acacia *Vachellia nilotica* Syn. *Acacia nilotica*



Description: Spreading thorny tree or shrub to 10 m. Stems pale when young, getting darker with age. Leaves twice divided with 4-10 paired sections and 10-20 pairs of leaflets on each. Distinctive pale spines to 5 cm occur in pairs where the young leaves joins the stem. Yellow flowers ball shaped, fluffy and 1 cm wide. Seed pods grey-green, 10-15 cm long with narrow constrictions between seeds.

Can be confused with:

Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.)

Mimosa bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*)

Habitat: Drainage lines, watering points (bores or turkey nests), pastures and woodland.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and vehicles.

Flowering time: March to July.

Origin: Africa and West Asia.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Barleria



Flower of *Barleria prionitis*



Barleria lupulina



Barleria prionitis

CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

SHRUB

Barleria *Barleria prionitis*, *Barleria lupulina*

Description: Erect, prickly shrub to 1 m with 3-5 sharp, pale spines to 1-2 cm where the leaf joins the stem. Smooth, brown, squarish stems with leaves opposite to 12 cm and 4-5 cm wide with a pointed tip ending in a small spine. Yellow or pale orange tubular flowers 4 cm long occurring in upright spikes with long projecting stamens. *Barleria lupulina* can be distinguished by its longer narrower, darker green leaves and prominent red mid-vein.

Habitat: Invades open woodland habitats and along water courses.

Spread by: Garden plantings, animals, birds, humans, wind, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: February to October.

Origin: Africa and Indian subcontinent.

Declaration status:

Barleria prionitis Class A.

Barleria lupulina is not declared.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Bellyache bush



Flower



Fruit



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A and B

SHRUB

Bellyache bush *Jatropha gossypifolia*



Description: Erect, perennial shrub, 2-4 m tall. Branches and stems covered with sticky brown hairs. Leaves purple or green with 3-5 deep lobes. Flowers small, purple to red with yellow centres in clusters. Fruit smooth, green, approximately spherical with shallow grooves and contain 3-4 seeds.

Can be confused with:

Castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*)

Physic nut (*Jatropha curcas*)

Habitat: Invades tropical riparian, savanna woodland and degraded areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, meat ants, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: Most of the year, more during Wet Season.

Origin: Tropical America

Declaration status: Class A and B.
Refer to nt.gov.au/weeds for declaration details.

Optimum Treatment Time:

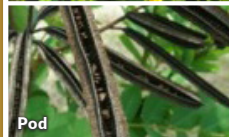
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Candle bush



Flower



Pod



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Candle bush *Senna alata*

Description: Perennial shrub up to 4 m. Leaves alternate on the stem, up to 60 cm long, and consist of up to 14 pairs of opposite leaflets, each 5–15 cm long. Yellow flowers clustered in vertical spikes. Dark brown to black pods elongated, grow upwards from the stems and have two prominent wings extending along their length. Triangular shaped seeds are dark-grey to black.

Can be confused with:

Other *Senna* spp.

Habitat: Invades native bushland in coastal and near-coastal regions. Readily forms dense thickets along creek lines and drainage channels.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles and water.

Flowering time: Mainly May to June.

Origin: South America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Castor oil plant



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Castor oil plant *Ricinus communis*

Description: Tall branching shrub to 3 m. Stems change in colour from a pale green-red to grey when mature. Leaves glossy and divided into 7-9 spearhead shaped lobes with toothed margins. Young leaves are dark red to brown becoming green when mature and have an unpleasant odour when crushed. Red-green flowers form as crowded, rigid spikes in the forks of the upper branches.

Can be confused with:

Bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)

Habitat: Commonly found in disturbed areas such as along roadsides and riverbanks.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles and water.

Flowering time: December to March.

Origin: Africa and India.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

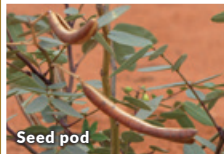
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Coffee senna



Flower



Seed pod



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Coffee senna *Senna occidentalis*

Description: Annual or short-lived perennial shrub to 2 m. The divided leaves consist of 3-5 pairs of opposite leaflets, each 3-7 cm long with a large dark gland where the leaf joins the stem. Leaves have an unpleasant smell when crushed. Flowers yellow, 2-3 cm wide with 5 petals and grow in clusters at the end of branches. Seed pods are bean-like, about 10 cm long and 1 cm wide, containing 25-35 smooth, black seeds.

Can be confused with:

Sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*)

Other *Senna* spp.

Habitat: Usually found in disturbed areas, drainage channels and flood plains.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles and pasture seed.

Flowering time: February to May.

Origin: Tropical America.

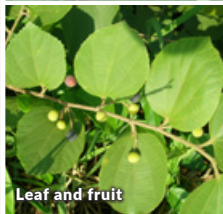
Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Grewia



CURRENT THREAT

SHRUB

Grewia *Grewia asiatica*

Description: Shrub to 4 m, long slender drooping branches. Alternate, broadly heart-shaped leaves up to 20 cm by 16 cm with toothed edges, whitish on underside. Small orange-yellow flowers in dense clusters. Round fruit up to 1.5 cm diameter, begin green, turn purple-red and then black. Uneven ripening.

Can be confused with:

Native *Grewia* spp.

Habitat: Can invade and dominate open woodlands. Margins of monsoon forest likely to be suitable.

Spread by: Birds and humans.

Flowering time: July to November.

Origin: South and South-East Asia.

Declaration status: Not declared.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Lantana



Flower



Leaf and fruit



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Lantana *Lantana camara*



Description: Spreading multi-stemmed shrub to 2 m forming compact clumps or dense thickets. Leaves have a pungent smell when crushed, are oval shaped, opposite on the stem and 2.5-10 cm long. Showy flowers in flat-topped clusters and vary in colour (yellow and pink on opening, changing to orange and red as they age). Fruit are glossy, rounded and purplish-black when ripe.

Can be confused with:

Creeping lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*)

Habitat: Tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions. Mainly found on richer soils in higher rainfall areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and cuttings.

Flowering time: All year.

Origin: Central America. Pantropical weed.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

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Mimosa



Flower



Seed pod



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A and B

SHRUB

Mimosa *Mimosa pigra*



Description: Multi-stemmed prickly shrub to 6 m, with curved thorns to 1 cm. Bright green compound leaves are feather-like, and fold together when touched and at night. Flower heads are round fluffy balls consisting of up to 100 small pink to mauve flowers. Each flower head produces a cluster of 10-20 seed pods, 6-8 cm long. When mature, the pods turn brown and break into segments.

Can be confused with:

Mimosa bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*)
Sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*)

Habitat: Invades floodplains, swamps and watercourses.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicles and machinery.

Flowering time: July to February.

Origin: Mexico, Central America and tropical South America.

Declaration status: Class A and B.
Refer to nt.gov.au/weeds for declaration details.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Physic nut



Flower



Fruit and stem

SHRUB

Declared Class A

Physic nut *Jatropha curcas*

Description: Erect perennial shrub to 4 m with thick sappy stems. Leaves smooth and dark green with 3-5 lobes and 5 prominent veins. Flowers yellow-green and form in clusters on stalks. Fruit a fleshy globular capsule to 4 cm, green turning dark brown when ripe releasing 2-3 black oblong seeds.

Can be confused with:
Bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)

Habitat: Invades degraded lands and along river banks. Prefers well drained soils.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: October to December.

Origin: The Caribbean.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Prickly pears



Spines



Flower



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

SHRUB

Prickly pears *Opuntia* spp.



Description: Erect cactus to 2 m or more with jointed, succulent, flattened or cylindrical stems armed with sharp spines. Flowers solitary and stalkless and vary in colour from yellow, orange, red to purple. Pear shaped, fleshy fruit is red to purple, sometimes with spines.

Habitat: Tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions. Particularly well suited to arid and semi-arid rangelands.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicle and machinery.

Flowering time:
September to February.

Origin: Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Rope cacti



Devils rope cactus



Hudson pear



Boxing glove cactus



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

SHRUB

Rope cacti *Cylindropuntia* spp.



Description: Erect branched cactus, 1-3 m tall with jointed, succulent, cylindrical stems armed with sharp spines. Solitary and stalkless flowers are produced on stems. Petals vary in colour from yellow, orange, red to purple. Fleshy fruit is red to purple, pear shaped, sometimes with spines.

Habitat: Tolerates a wide range of environmental conditions.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicle and machinery.

Flowering time:
September to February.

Origin: Southern USA, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Rubber bush



Flower



Fruit



Seed



CURRENT THREAT

Declared Class B South of 16°30' S

SHRUB

Rubber bush *Calotropis procera*

Description: Multi-stemmed shrub to 4 m with a waxy appearance and milky sap. Bark light-brown and deeply fissured. Stems grey-green and smooth. Leaves thick, waxy and heart-shaped to 20 cm. Flowers consist of 5 white petals with a purple tinge on their tips, and a central purple crown. Pods oval-shaped and grey-green to 25 cm, splitting when ripe releasing hundreds of seeds with parachutes of silky hair.

Habitat: Invades roadsides, watercourses, pastures and disturbed areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicles, machinery and wind.

Flowering time: All year in the NT.

Origin: Sri Lanka, India and the Middle East.

Declaration status:
Class B south of 16°30' S.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Siam weed



Flower



Seed head



ALERT WEED
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Siam weed *Chromolaena odorata*

Description: Perennial shrub up to 5 m forming dense thickets, or up to 20 m high when climbing on vegetation. All parts aromatic when crushed. Stems soft, round, with opposite, paired branches. Leaves soft, hairy, roughly triangular in shape with a distinctive 'pitchfork' three-vein pattern. Produces masses of white to pale pink flowers clustered at the end of branches.

Note: Siam weed was found in the NT for the first time in 2019. If you see this plant, report it immediately.

Habitat: Thrives in pastures, plantations, clearings, roadsides and riverbanks.

Spread by: Wind, humans, animals and machinery.

Flowering time: May to October.

Origin: Central and northern South America.

Declaration status: Class B.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Sicklepod



Flower



Seed pod



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Sicklepod *Senna obtusifolia*

Description: Annual or short-lived perennial shrub to 2 m. Leaves divided into 2-3 pairs of opposite leaflets 2-3 cm long and 1.5-2 cm wide. Flowers yellow with 5 petals, 1 cm wide. Flowers grow in pairs. Seed pods bean-like, slender and curved 6-18 cm long and 2-6 mm wide. Pods grow downwards from the stem. Seeds are flattened and dark brown.

Can be confused with:

Coffee senna (*Senna occidentalis*)
Other *Senna* spp.

Habitat: Invades disturbed areas and rivers and floodplains.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles, machinery, pasture seeds and grain.

Flowering time: February to May.

Origin: South America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Sida spp.



Flannel weed



Paddy's lucerne



Spinyhead sida

CURRENT WEED
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Spinyhead sida

Sida acuta

Flannel weed

Sida cordifolia

Paddy's lucerne

Sida rhombifolia

Description: Perennial shrubs with woody stems, tough stringy bark and a sturdy tap root. Narrow, bright green leaves with toothed margins. Flowers yellow to pale-orange, single or in pairs. Fruits hard, dark brown dry capsules that split into segments, each with 2 sharp points at one end.

Habitat: Invades disturbed and overgrazed areas.

Spread by: Vehicles, machinery, animals, birds, humans, contaminated seeds and grain.

Flowering time: December to May.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Note: A biological control agent, the sida leafbeetle (*Calligrapha pantherina*) is effective at controlling spinyhead sida infestations.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Snakeweeds



S. cayennensis leaf



S. jamaicensis flower



S. australis flower



S. cayennensis

CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

SHRUB

Snakeweeds

Stachytarpheta australis, *S. cayennensis*, *S. jamaicensis*

Description: Perennial clumping shrub to 2 m, with tough stems and a woody rootstock. Leaves hairy underside with shallowly toothed margins. Flowers range from violet, purple, dark or pale blue to almost white and form along a stiff snake-like stem up to 50 cm long. Each flower is 5 mm across and has 5 petals. Seeds are dark brown-black and are 5 mm long.

Habitat: Invades disturbed areas such as drainage channels, roadsides, overgrazed areas and monsoon forest fringes.

Spread by: Vehicles, machinery, cuttings, pasture seeds and grain.

Flowering time: January to May.

Origin: Tropical and subtropical America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Caltrop



Flower



Fruit and leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Caltrop *Tribulus cistoides*, *Tribulus terrestris*

Description: Spreading prostrate annual or biennial herbs with a well developed tap root. Stems have fine hair that radiate along the ground up to 2 m. Leaves opposite. Each leaf divided into 4–7 pairs of hairy leaflets, darker above and paler below. Flowers single, yellow on short stalks. Fruit is a woody burr splitting into 5 wedged-shaped segments. Each segment has 2 unequal pairs of spines and contains 1–4 yellow seeds.

Habitat: Invades disturbed areas, parks, roadsides, agricultural land and native vegetation.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and vehicles.

Flowering time: All year.

Origin: Uncertain, widely distributed through tropics. *Tribulus cistoides* is considered native to the Northern Territory.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Devils claw



Flower



Fruit



Seed



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

HERB

Devils claw *Martynia annua*

Description: Erect annual herb to 2 m covered in short hairs which release a sticky sap when touched. Leaves opposite, large and pumpkin-like, about 12 cm wide with 5–7 shallow lobes. Flowers tubular, mauve to lavender and form in clusters at the top of the plant. Fruit woody with 2 sharp curved spines or ‘claws’ which attach to vehicles, humans and animals. Each fruit contains two dark seeds.

Can be confused with:

Noogoora burr (*Xanthium strumarium*)
Bathurst burr (*Xanthium spinosum*)

Habitat: Disturbed areas such as around stockyards, buildings and along roadsides, rivers and creeks.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and vehicles.

Flowering time: February to June.

Origin: Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Hyptis



Flower



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Hyptis *Mesosphaerum suaveolens*, syn. *Hyptis suaveolens*

Description: Annual herb to 3 m (usually 1–1.5 m) with a strong minty scent and square stems. Leaves opposite, 2.5–7.5 cm long with serrated margins. Flowers are small, tubular, lavender coloured and grow in few-flowered clusters. Seeds dark brown to black, shield-shaped to 4 mm long.

Can be confused with:
Knobweed (*Hyptis spicigera*)

Habitat: Usually found in disturbed or overgrazed areas. Also invades pastures, riparian areas and well-drained open forests.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles, pasture seed, wind and water.

Flowering time: February to August.

Origin: South America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Khaki weed



Flower



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Khaki weed *Alternanthera pungens*

Description: Prostrate, perennial herb that forms thick mats in disturbed areas. Reddish, trailing stems to 60 cm. Leaves in opposite pairs of unequal size, hairy, rounded, 1-4 cm long (commonly 2 cm). Flowers white in globular heads, in clusters where the leaf joins the stem. Fruit is a straw-coloured prickly burr to 1 cm.

Habitat: Usually found in disturbed areas, lawns, campgrounds, stockyards and overgrazed areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and vehicles.

Flowering time: December to May.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Lions tail



Flower



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Lions tail *Leonotis nepetifolia*

Description: Erect annual herb to 3 m sparsely branched and covered in short white hairs. Stems square with a distinct groove along each side. Leaves opposite with serrated edges, to 6–12 cm. Orange pom-pom flowers held within small sharp leaves (bracts) in clusters, 5–6 cm in diameter. Seeds triangular and produced in large quantities.

Habitat: Usually found in disturbed areas, roadsides, overgrazed sites and levee banks of rivers.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: Mainly Dry Season.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Mexican poppy



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Mexican poppy *Argemone ochroleuca*

Description: Robust, erect, spiny annual herb to 1 m tall. Stems and leaves are a distinctive pale blue-green colour and release yellow sap when cut. Serrated leaves with prickles and wavy margins. Single flowers at the end of branchlets with 4-6 cream to pale yellow coloured petals. Fruit are shiny blue-green capsules, covered in rigid spines and open at the top to expose seeds. Seeds are brown or black and globular in shape, 1.5 mm diameter.

Habitat: Seasonal creeks, streambeds, alluvial flats, drainage lines and disturbed areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicles, machinery, sand and gravel, pasture seeds and grain.

Flowering time: Mainly July to November.

Origin: Mexico and Central America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Noogoora burr



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Noogoora burr *Xanthium strumarium*, syn. *Xanthium occidentale*

Description: Branched, woody annual herb to 2 m, covered with stiff hair. Leaves 10–15 cm in diameter with 3–5 deep lobes with irregularly toothed margins. Flowers inconspicuous produce clusters of woody burrs. Burrs are 12–20 mm long, covered in hooked spines about 5 mm long with two terminal 'beaks'.

Can be confused with:

Devils claw (*Martynia annua*)

Habitat: Grows in a variety of habitats including drainage lines and disturbed areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicles, machinery, pasture seed and grain.

Flowering time: January to June.

Origin: North America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Parthenium weed



Flower



Leaf



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A



HERB

Parthenium weed

Parthenium hysterophorus



Description: An erect branched annual herb to 2 m tall. Pale green leaves are covered in fine, soft hairs and are deeply lobed. Creamy white flowers 4 mm across with 5 distinct corners. Flowers form in clusters at the end of each branch. Each flower produces 4 black seeds approximately 2 mm long with 2 thin, white, spoon-shaped appendages.

Habitat: Invades grazing land and disturbed areas such as roadsides and cultivated areas.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles, machinery, pasture seeds, grain and water.

Flowering time: February to May.

Origin: Americas.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Star burr



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

HERB

Star burr *Acanthospermum hispidum*

Description: Annual herb to 1 m with forked green stems covered with stiff hairs. Leaves stalkless in opposite pairs. Flowers greenish-yellow to 5 mm long in clusters on upper branches of plant. Fruit is a burr containing a group of 10 wedge-shaped seeds, each covered with short hooked prickles with two longer spines. The seeds resemble a 'goat's head' which is an alternate common name.

Habitat: Invades disturbed land, overgrazed areas, river banks and areas around bores and yards.

Spread by: Vehicles, machinery, animals, birds, humans, pasture seed, grain and water.

Flowering time: February to May.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Thornapples



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A (*Datura ferox*)

HERB

Thornapples *Datura* spp.

Description: Erect or bushy annual herbs to 1.5 m. Leaves oval shaped, with serrated edges and pointed lobes. Solitary white trumpet-shaped flowers form in the forks of the branched stems. Easily distinguished by round, spiny fruit. Fruit are filled with numerous black kidney-shaped seeds. There are 2 main species in the NT, longspine thornapple (*Datura ferox*) and downy thornapple (*Datura innoxia*).

Can be confused with:

Native thornapple (*Datura leichhardtii*)

Habitat: Prefers disturbed sites and fertile soils.

Spread by: Vehicles, pasture seeds and grain.

Flowering time: February to June.

Origin: Central and South America and Mexico.

Declaration status:

Datura ferox Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Cat's claw creeper



Declared Class A

Vine

Cat's claw creeper

Dolichandra unguis-cati



Description: Vigorous woody vine to 20 m or more with tubers and rooting from the stems. Compound leaves opposite, each consisting of two leaflets with a 3-clawed tendril growing between them (the 'cat's claw'). Leaves dark glossy green when adult, juveniles mottled green with silver veins. Flowers showy, yellow and trumpet-shaped. Pods long and narrow to 45 cm, containing many papery seeds.

Habitat: Currently restricted to gardens in the NT. Coastal areas, disturbed areas, woodlands, monsoon forest margins likely to be suitable. Significant weed of coastal Queensland and NSW.

Spread by: Humans, water and wind.

Flowering time: October to November.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Rubber vine



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A

VINE

Rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*



Description: Vigorous vine to 15 m climbing up trees or as a shrub to 1–3 m in open areas. All parts exude a milky sap when damaged. Leaves opposite, thick, glossy dark green to 10 cm with purple midribs and stalks. Flowers bell-shaped with 5 lobes, usually white with a lilac-red throat. Pods 10–15 cm, paired at right angles to the stalk and contain numerous seeds with tufts of silky hair.

Can be confused with:

Ornamental rubbervine (*Cryptostegia madagascariensis*)

Native vines (*Gymnanthera oblonga* and *Ichnocarpus frutescens*)

Habitat: Major infestations occur along watercourses in Queensland, also tropical, and semi-arid woodlands.

Spread by: Wind, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: October to April.

Origin: Madagascar.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Rubber vine, ornamental



Flower



Seed pod



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

VINE

Rubber vine, ornamental *Cryptostegia madagascariensis*

Description: Vigorous vine which exudes a milky sap when damaged. Leaves opposite, dark green and glossy, 6-10 cm long. Bell-shaped flowers white to pale pink or purple, 5-6 cm long with 5 lobes. Pods 10-12 cm, rigid, grow in pairs at the end of the short stalk. Similar to rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) from which it is distinguished by the absence of any purple colouring of the leaf midribs and leaf stalks, and smaller flowers and pods.

Can be confused with:

Rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)
Native vines (*Gymnanthera oblonga* and *Ichnocarpus frutescens*)

Habitat: Gardens, tropical riparian areas, edge of monsoon forest.

Spread by: Wind, water, people and vehicles.

Flowering time: October to April.

Origin: Madagascar.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Exotic rats tail grass



Flower



CURRENT THREAT

GRASS

Exotic rats tail grasses *Sporobolus* spp.

Description: Robust, well rooted perennial tussock grasses. Some species to 2 m although commonly found around 1 m. Wiry stems and leaves notably tougher than most other grasses. Seed heads form a typical long rat's tail spike to 45 cm, but may open to an elongated pyramid shape when mature. Cattle selectively graze around tussocks. Difficult to control with herbicides and can dramatically decrease grazing land value.

Habitat: Upland, disturbed and seasonally flooded areas, overgrazed pastures, roadsides, around settlements.

Spread by: Humans, cattle, vehicles and water.

Flowering time: January to August

Origin: Tropical and temperate Americas, Africa and Asia.

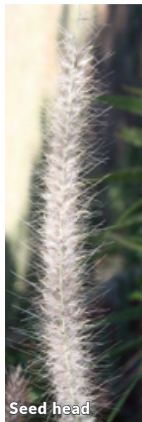
Declaration status: Not declared.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Fountain grass



Seed head



Stem and leaves

CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

GRASS

Fountain grass

Cenchrus setaceus formerly *Pennisetum setaceum*.

Description: Erect, perennial tussock grass to about 1 m. Leaves wiry, 10-45 cm long, forming dense, light-green clumps. Flower bristles erect, cream to pink or purple, 15-38 cm long. Seeds are small and dry with long showy bristles.

Can be confused with: Mission grasses and other *Cenchrus* spp.

Note: Fountain grass is highly invasive interstate. It is recommended that existing garden plantings are destroyed to avoid inadvertent spread. Contact the Weed Management Branch immediately if you see fountain grass establishing outside of garden settings.

Habitat: Naturally open areas in arid and semi-arid regions.

Spread by: Humans, wind, water, vehicles and animals.

Flowering time: Spring to summer (arid zone).

Origin: Northern and eastern Africa and south-west Asia.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Gamba grass



Leaf



Stem



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A and B



GRASS

Gamba grass *Andropogon gayanus*



Description: Erect perennial tussock grass to 4 m with robust stems covered in dense soft white hairs. Leaves broad and softly hairy to 1 m, with a distinctive white midrib. Seed heads v-shaped and fluffy, developing above the leaves on thick stems. Mature plants can produce large quantities of viable seed.

Can be confused with:

Northern canegrass (*Mnesithea rottboellioides*)
Itch grass (*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*)
Native lemongrasses (*Cymbopogon* spp.)

Habitat: Suited to most soil types in the Top End, except heavy clays. Requires annual rainfall of at least 600 mm.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, vehicles, machinery, hay, pasture seeds, grain and wind.

Flowering time: April to August.

Origin: Africa.

Declaration status:

Class A and B. Refer to nt.gov.au/weeds for current declaration details.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Buffel grass



Seed



Flower spike



CURRENT THREAT
Declared – unclassified status

GRASS

Buffel grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*

Description: Dense, deep-rooted perennial grass to 1 m high. Leaf blade bluish-green, to 30 cm long and 1.3 cm wide. Leaves are hairy with pointed tips. Purple seed heads up to 15 cm long and 2 cm wide fade to white as they age. Flowers have 1-4 spikelets surrounded at the base with bristles with forward directed barbs, and forming soft purple burrs to 16 mm long.

Can be confused with: Mossman river grass (*Cenchrus echinatus*)

Habitat: Can be found in a diverse range of habitats from rocky hillslopes to riverbanks and floodout areas with a preference for alluvial soils.

Spread by: Wind, water, animals and vehicles.

Flowering time: December to February or anytime after rain.

Origin: Tropical and sub-tropical Africa, India and Indonesia.

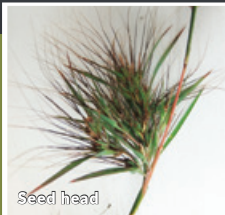
Declaration status:
Declared – unclassified status.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Grader grass



Seed head



Leaf



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

GRASS

Grader grass *Themeda quadrivalvis*

Description: Erect annual grass to 2 m, green turning golden to orange-tan when mature. Leaves narrow and up to 30 cm long. Seed heads are globular or fan shaped clusters with long awns giving a bristled appearance, also with distinctive long, sparse hairs. Similar to native kangaroo grass which differs in being perennial, usually less than 1 m tall and a red-brown appearance when mature.

Can be confused with:

Native kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)
Thatch grass (*Hyparrhenia rufa*)

Habitat: Roadsides, native and improved pastures, competing with pasture species in over-utilised or disturbed areas.

Spread by: Slashers, animals, birds, humans, vehicles, pasture seed, hay and wind.

Flowering time: February to June.

Origin: India.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Mission grass, annual



CURRENT THREAT

GRASS

Mission grass, annual

Cenchrus pedicellatus formerly *Pennisetum pedicellatum*

Description: Annual tussock grass to 2.5 m with slender stems. Leaf blades narrow, hairy to 45 cm long 1.8 cm wide with a ring of short hairs where the blade meets the stalk. Flower heads a dense spike on tall, thin stalks well above the leaves, cream to pale-purple, erect to slightly drooping, producing large numbers of wind-dispersed seeds.

Can be confused with:

Perennial mission grass (*Cenchrus polystachios*)

Habitat: Favours disturbed areas including degraded pastures, cultivated land and waste sites, but also invades tropical woodlands, creeks and the edge of monsoon forest.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicles, machinery, pasture seeds, grains, hay and wind.

Flowering time: April to June.

Origin: Tropical Africa.

Declaration status: Not declared.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Mission grass, perennial



Seed head



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

GRASS

Mission grass, perennial

Cenchrus polystachios formerly *Pennisetum polystachion*

Description: Perennial deep-rooted tussock grass to 3 m with slender stems. Leaf blades are up to 45 cm long and to 1.8 cm wide. Flower heads are a dense spike on tall thin stalks well above the leaves, pale-yellow to brown, erect to slightly drooping. Closely related to *Cenchrus pedicellatus* which differs by being an annual grass with cream to pale purple seed heads.

Can be confused with:

Annual mission grass (*Cenchrus pedicellatus*)

Habitat: Invades disturbed areas and degraded pastures, as well as undisturbed habitats.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water, vehicles, machinery, pasture seed, grains, hay and wind.

Flowering time: April to June.

Origin: Tropical Africa.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Mossman River grass



Seed head



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B

GRASS

Mossman River grass *Cenchrus echinatus*

Description: Erect annual grass to 50 cm with stems also rooting at lower nodes. Leaves pale, flat and taper at the tips. Seed head green to purple or brown, spike-like and carries a cluster of 5–50 spiny burrs which are easily dislodged. Burrs up to 5 mm in diameter.

Can be confused with:
Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*)

Habitat: Invades disturbed areas often around homesteads, parks, schoolgrounds, roadsides, along creek and swamp margins.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans, water and vehicles.

Flowering time: November to May or anytime after rain.

Origin: America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Olive hymenachne



Stem



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class B



GRASS

Olive hymenachne *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*



Description: Robust, perennial grass to 2.5 m with stolon-forming stems that run along the ground and produce new plants by rooting at the nodes. Long leaves with a base up to 30 mm wide, with long hairs. Leaf blade is distinctly heart-shaped at its base where it clasps around the stem. Flower head a cylindrical spike 20–40 cm long. Spreads on dry land and floats on water. Can hybridise with native hymenachne.

Can be confused with:

Native hymenachne (*Hymenachne acutigluma*)

Habitat: Floodplains, swamps, low lying areas and along the edges of permanent water.

Spread by: Seeds and runners spread by floodwaters, waterbirds and humans.

Flowering time: March to June.

Origin: Tropical America.

Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Para grass



CURRENT THREAT

GRASS

Para grass *Urochloa mutica* formerly *Brachiaria mutica*

Description: Vigorous perennial grass to 2 m. Stems stout, trailing, densely hairy and rooting at nodes. Leaves and sheaths generally hairy. Leaf blades to 30 cm. Can form floating mats 1-2 m thick over water bodies. Can tolerate water depths up to 2 m.

Habitat: Wet or seasonally flooded areas.

Spread by: Humans, birds and water.

Flowering time: March to September.

Origin: Tropical Africa.

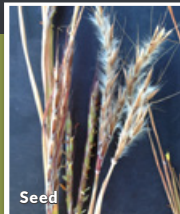
Declaration status: Not declared.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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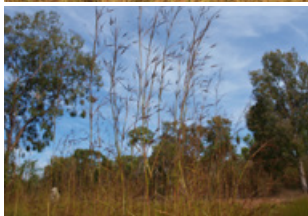
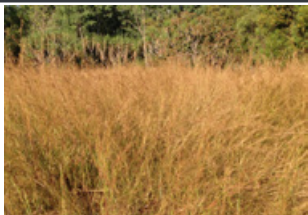
Thatch grass



Seed



Leaves and stem



CURRENT THREAT
Declared Class A

GRASS

Thatch grass *Hyparrhenia rufa*

Description: Erect, densely perennial or occasionally annual grass to 3 m. Leaves flat, 30-60 cm long, 2-8 mm wide, narrowed at base, very rough edges. Flower heads hairy, reddish or rusty brown, occur in pairs of racemes attached to long sinuous stems above the leaves. Seed bristles 15-20 mm long and twisted with 2 bends.

Can be confused with:

Grader grass (*Themda quadrivalvis*)
Native kangaroo grass
(*Themeda triandra*)

Habitat: Roadsides, woodlands and pastures.

Spread by: Wind, humans, animals and vehicles.

Flowering time: March to October.

Origin: Africa.

Declaration status: Class A.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Alligator weed



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A

AQUATIC

Alligator weed

Alternanthera philoxeroides



Description: Perennial herb with hollow stems. Leaves dark green, fleshy, smooth and waxy surface, 2–7 cm long, narrowing at the tip. Leaves in opposite pairs on the main stems with visible veins originating from the central rib. Flower heads are silvery white. Grows on land and in water, forming large mats of interwoven stems that extend over water. May be free-floating, or rooted and emergent from the water surface. Viable seed not recorded in Australia.

Habitat: Floodplains, swamps, rivers and creeks, wet or occasionally inundated pastures or floodplains.

Spread by: Mud, machinery, in turf and by flood.

Flowering time: January to March.

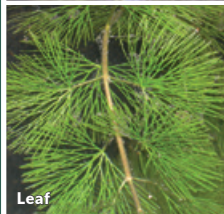
Origin: South America.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Cabomba



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A

AQUATIC

Cabomba *Cabomba caroliniana*



Description: Mostly submerged perennial herb, 2-10 m long. Usually rooted to the water body floor, but can survive unattached. There are 2 types of leaves. Most commonly, below the water are opposite fan-shaped finely-divided leaves on a 3 cm stalk. Above the water are undivided narrow leaves to 2 cm. Flowers white with yellow centres, 2 cm wide, grow above or below the water surface.

Can be confused with:

Native aquatics (*Ceratophyllum demersum* and *Limnophila* spp.)

Habitat: Favours nutrient-rich waterways and slow-moving streams.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and water.

Flowering time: All year.

Origin: South America.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



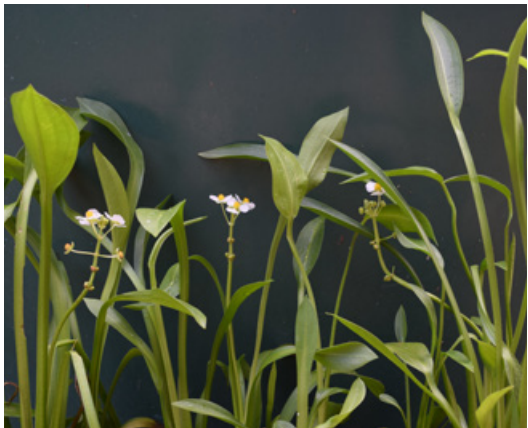
Sagittaria



Flower



Leaves



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A

AQUATIC

Sagittaria *Sagittaria platyphylla*



Description: Perennial herb to 1.5 m growing in or out of water. Leaves smooth and come in two forms, on stalks to 80 cm, or straplike below water to 30 cm. Leaf stalks triangular in cross-section. Flower stalks to 50 cm with two different types of flowers on the same stem. Male flowers above with 3 white petals. Female flowers below with green flattened balls which develop into fruits containing many tiny seeds. Spreads by seeds, rhizomes and tubers.

Can be confused with:

Cultivated *Echinodorus* spp.

Habitat: Waterways, marshes, swamps, drainage ditches, seasonally flooded areas.

Spread by: Humans, water, animals and birds. Has been accidentally cultivated and traded in the Top End as an ornamental for garden ponds.

Flowering time: November to February.

Origin: Southern USA and Mexico.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Salvinia



Single plant



Infestation



CURRENT THREAT

AQUATIC

Salvinia *Salvinia molesta*



Description: Free-floating, perennial aquatic fern that forms dense mats over water surfaces. Individual plants range from 5-30 cm across. Leaves form at nodes in whorls of 3 with 2 of these floating at the surface and covered in waxy stiff hairs that are shaped like egg beaters. The other leaf acts like a root below the water's surface and is covered with dark hairs. No flowers or true roots are produced.

Can be confused with:

Azolla (*Azolla pinnata*)

Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)

Habitat: Favours nutrient-rich waterways including ponds, lakes, billabongs, dams and slow-moving streams.

Spread by: Vehicles, machinery, animals, birds, humans, water and cuttings.

Flowering time: Reproduces vegetatively and does not flower.

Origin: South America.

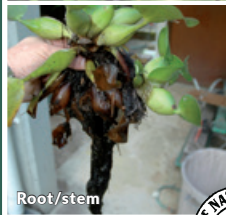
Declaration status: Class B.

Optimum Treatment Time:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Water hyacinth



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A



AQUATIC

Water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*



Description: Erect perennial aquatic herb to 60 cm. Leaves fleshy in a basal rosette. Leaf stalks distinctly bulbous and inflated in young plants. Older plants have leaf stalks to 60 cm long, without inflated bases. Flowers bluish-purple with 6 petals, the upper petal has a distinctive yellow mark in the centre surrounded by dark purple. Feathery, black-purple roots to 1 m. Reproduces both vegetatively and by seed.

Can be confused with:
Native *Monochoria* spp.

Habitat: Free floating plant, occasionally rooted in shallow water. Invades permanent freshwater bodies.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and water. Occasionally detected in ponds and aquariums in the NT.

Flowering time: October to July.

Origin: Amazon basin.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND



Water mimosa



ALERT WEED
Declared Class A

AQUATIC

Water mimosa *Neptunia plena*, *Neptunia oleracea*



Description: Perennial, aquatic or semi-aquatic herbs, floating or growing near water's edge. Leaves may be sensitive to touch, alternate on the stem, twice divided with 12–25 opposite leaflets per pinna and 2–4 opposite pinnae per leaf. Stems usually reddish on land. Floating stems to 2 m, thick, becoming corky, forming a spongy fibrous mat. Flowers as a yellow fluffy ball.

Can be confused with:

Native *Neptunia* spp. (e.g. *Neptunia major*, *Neptunia gracilis*)

Habitat: Banks of freshwater ponds, billabongs, swamps and open water. Prefers full sun.

Spread by: Animals, birds, humans and water.

Flowering time: September to April.

Origin: North and South America.

Declaration status: Class A.

REPORT IMMEDIATELY IF FOUND





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Cape York Peninsula Weed Pocket Guide. Cook Shire Council and Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Qld), 2001, Queensland Government.

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