

## Responsibilities of Land Owners:

Under the Victorian *Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994* certain introduced plants are declared as noxious weeds. All land owners must act to control these plants.

This table describes the categories and required actions:

Noxious Weed Status	Distribution and Threat	Actions Required under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
State Prohibited	A weed that poses a significant threat to Victoria. Removal is managed by the government, whether on private or public land.	Contact the Department of Environment Land Water & Planning immediately if you find one of these weeds on your property.
Regionally Prohibited	A weed that is currently not widely distributed in Victoria, but capable of spreading and is a serious threat. It is expected that these species can be controlled.	Control of these weeds is the responsibility of land owners. Action must be taken to eradicate these weeds from your property.
Regionally Controlled	A weed that is widespread in Victoria and is a serious threat. Continued control measures are required to prevent further spread.	Control of these weeds is the responsibility of land owners. Action must be taken to prevent growth and spread of these weeds.
Restricted	A weed that is widespread in Victoria and is a serious threat and has the potential to spread to another State or Territory.	These weeds must not be traded nor transported within Victoria. This includes selling and transporting contaminated stock feed, gravel or machinery.
Weed of National Significance	Highly invasive weeds with high environmental and agricultural impact across all states and territories, requiring coordination across Australia to control.	Control of these weeds is the responsibility of land owners. Action must be taken to eradicate these weeds from your property.

## Urban and Rural Properties

Weeds are not only found on farms and in bush lands, but are present in many urban gardens as well. Most noxious weeds originate from escaped garden plants, so it's vital for all property owners to control weeds to eliminate further spread and problems.

### Advantages of Controlling Weeds:

- increase the value of your property
- prevent weeds from spreading between you and your neighbours
- Claim a 20% rebate on your farm rates from Mount Alexander Shire.

### Need Further Assistance?

Local Landcare groups in your region are:

**Muckleford Catchment Landcare**  
mucklefordlandcare@gmail.com 5472 1316

**Sandy Creek Catchment Landcare**  
bbarnes6@bigpond.com 5475 1528

**Newstead Landcare**  
natives@newstead.vicmail.net 5476 2691

**Guildford & Upper Loddon Landcare**  
guildlc@bigpond.net 0428 948 665

### Suggestions for Replanting:

An integrated and long-term approach to weed control is required for success. Replacing weeds with indigenous plants can also increase the effectiveness of control works. Contact our local environment organisation 'Connecting Country' for a copy of their 'Indigenous Plants of Castlemaine' and 'Native Planting Guide', on 54721594 or info@connectingcountry.org.au

### For More Local Weed Information:

Contact the North Central Catchment Management Authority for a copy of their 'Weed Identification Guide', on 54487124 or www.nccma.vic.gov.au.



LODDON

# Weeds and your Responsibilities

in the **Loddon Ward**  
Mount Alexander Shire

**Noxious weeds are a major threat to primary industry and the environment.**

This guide:

- gives examples of some likely weeds you will find in your locality
- provides information about your responsibilities as a landowner to control these weeds

Photo: Linda Craig

These are just some of the weeds you might find on your property. For further information about noxious weeds contact Agriculture Victoria ([agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pest-diseases-and-weeds](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pest-diseases-and-weeds)) Weed photographs and information courtesy of North Central Catchment Management Authority "Weed Identification Guide. 2012" and Bonnie Humphreys.



**Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Controlled & Weed of National Significance

Erect, woody bush with sprawling canes to 7m long covered in thorns. Oval dark green leaves with slightly serrated edges. White-pink flowers in clusters at end of branches (Dec.-Feb.). Clusters of red then black berries. Seeds spread by animals & water.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide or Mechanical removal.



**English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)**

**Weed Status:** Restricted Weed

Erect, deciduous woody shrub to 3m tall. Multibranched stems from base with sharp, rigid spines. Dark green, compound leaves arranged alternately. Bright yellow, pea-shaped flowers near ends of branches (Oct-Dec). Brown-black pods contain 6-20 seeds. Seeds spread by water, livestock & vehicles.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide or Manual digging or Mechanical removal.



**Pattersons Curse (*Echium plantagineum*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Controlled

Several erect stems to 1.2m tall covered in coarse hairs. Rosette of broad, paddle shaped leaves from base & small leaves on stem. Purple, trumpet shaped flowers in clusters, from Aug-Dec. Spread by animals, vehicles, contaminated soil, grain/fodder.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide or Manual digging.



**Bridal Creeper (*Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Prohibited & Weed of National Significance

Climber with slender, twining stems to 3m long with glossy green, alternate, oval leaves & extensive root system. Greenish-white flowers in Aug/Sept & round, red sticky berries. Seeds spread by animals, water and vehicles.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide, or Manual digging or Mechanical removal.



**Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Prohibited & Weed of National Significance

Much branched shrub to 4m tall with woody, spiny stems. Dark green, narrow, spiny leaves. Bright yellow pea-like flowers during July/Oct and March/May. Spread by animals, water or contaminated soil.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide, Cut & paint with herbicide or Mechanical removal.



**St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Controlled

Erect, woody, reddish stems to 100cm tall, several arising per crown & branching near top. Long green leaves in opposite pairs. Yellow flowers with 5 petals, in clusters at end of top branches, in late spring/summer. Dust-like seeds spread by water, animals, vehicles, cultivation.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide.



**Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)**

**Weed Status:** Restricted Weed & Weed of National Significance

Erect evergreen shrub to 3m tall. Short stalked leaves of 3 leaflets. Bright yellow pea-like flowers in clusters up to 9 in late winter – spring. Silky black or brown pods contain 5-8 seeds, ejected on hot days. Seed spread by vehicles & contaminated soil.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide, or Manual digging or Mechanical removal.



**Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Controlled

Erect bushy herb to 75cm tall with much branched stems covered in dense hairs & strong smell. Blue-green, rounded, silvery leaves with hairs on top and woolly underneath. White flowers from summer to autumn. Spread by animals and water.

**Control Actions:** Spray foliage with herbicide or Cultivate prior to flowering.



**Wheel Cactus (*Opuntia robusta*)**

**Weed Status:** Regionally Prohibited & Weed of National Significance

Blue/green erect cactus to 3m tall. Large, flat, round pads with many spines. Yellow flowers & dark red fruit in spring/summer. Seeds spread by birds, animals & water. Regrows from plant segments. **Control Actions:** Direct Injection of herbicide or Manual digging then burying or burning.