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SGLN Weed Fact Sheet

Weeds

FAST FACT:

A weed is a plant growing where it's not wanted. The most dangerous types of weed are noxious, which are then divided into one of four groups; state prohibited; regionally prohibited, regionally controlled or restricted weeds.

what are the differences between weeds?

Noxious weeds are threats because if infestations occur they will cause serious agricultural or environmental damage. They are declared on a Catchment basis and a weed may have a different status in different parts of Victoria.

State prohibited weeds are species that are not found here widely or not at all, but are considered capable of being totally eradicated. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is responsible for their control and will act as soon as the weed is discovered.

Regionally prohibited weeds are not widely distributed in a region and are considered able to be eradicated. Landholders are responsible for them on their property, and must eradicate them. Roadsides are the responsibility of the appropriate authority who should be notified.

Regionally controlled weeds are usually widespread, and the landholder is responsible to make sure they do not spread further by taking all reasonable steps to control and prevent the spread of these weeds on their land and roadsides that join their land.

Restricted weeds pose an unacceptable risk of spreading and so cannot be traded.

Environmental and agricultural weeds are species that threaten the values of natural ecosystems and farmland. They can invade native plant communities and agricultural pastures and out-compete them. Invasions of environmental weeds often reduce plant diversity and result in loss of habitat for native animals.

how can I deal with them?

All weeds have a recommended way of control and removal. This can involve mechanical (e.g.; pulling out, smothering) or chemical (e.g.; weed spray) or a combination of both. The South Gippsland Landcare Network can help with advice and hire of spray and other equipment.

why should I worry about them?

Any weed infestation on your property can cause loss of production and habitat for native animals, whilst increasing the risk of providing a home for pest animals such as foxes. A rampant weed infestation will almost always annoy your neighbours, and bad relationships between neighbours are never desirable.

With noxious weeds; if landholders fail to comply with the Catchment and Land Protection Act, DPI regional officers may require land owners to ensure that weed control work is completed. DPI can prosecute property owners who do not eradicate or control those weeds for which they are responsible.

where can I get further help?

South Gippsland Landcare Network can arrange a site visit by our Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer to discuss weeds and control. We also have equipment for hire.

Ph 03 5682 1934 or 0428 317 928.

SGLN weeds website is at www.southgippslandweeds.com.au. This website has plenty of great information on weed identification and control. You can also contact the Pest Plant and Animal Project Officer through the web page.

South Gippsland Landcare Network

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is made up of 22 Landcare groups. Landcare encourages land stewardship and aims to improve the long term productivity and sustainability of our land.

If you would like to become involved in Landcare in South Gippsland you can contact us on 5662 5759 or email us on sgln@landcare.net

The South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce meets to discuss weed control policy and strategies.

Contact the Taskforce through the SGLN.

