Blackberry (Ubus fruticosus)



Wimmera CMA status: Regionally controlled
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Regionally controlled
Distribution notes: Spread as a food plant in colonial times is mainly restricted to waterways in the upper Wimmera catchment in the Glenpatrick, Nowhere Creek, Elmhurst, Warrak areas and also around Halls Gap, Pomonal and Moyston. Sometimes found in paddocks away from watercourses but favours damper areas.
Seed viability:< 5 years
Time to reproductive maturity: 2 years +
Control options: Slashing and burning are not complete control options and are only really effective in reducing infestations to gain access for stock and herbicide application. Hand removal of plants and cutting stems and applying neat Glyphosate herbicide are very effective for isolated plants and small infestations. Project platypus generally use Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix. Timing is critical with Blackberry so only spray when actively growing from November through to the end of March for best results.

Bridal Creeper (Asparagus asparagoides)



Wimmera CMA status: Restricted
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Restricted
Distribution notes: Found right across the upper Wimmera, Bridal Creeper was once planted in gardens for it attractive foliage. A real problem environmental weed able to invade areas of native vegetation without the need of soil disturbance (fire or machinery baring the soil) for it to become established. Birds carry the seeds after eating the fruit and excrete them out in their droppings, plants are usually found under trees or a fence line where birds have perched. Underground rhizomes (bulbs) make it difficult to kill with herbicide often requiring a number of years of sequential control.
Seed viability in soil: < 10 years / rhizomes < 5years
Time to reproductive maturity: 3 + years
Control options: Isolated plants can be dug up and the rhizomes left on the soil surface to dry out in warmer weather. The foliage dies off in early summer, reshooting in May – June with the autumn rain. Plants can therefore be difficult to locate once the foliage has died off. Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix has proven to be very effective over many years of control work by Project Platypus. Glyphosate can also be used but does not seem to be as effective at killing the rhizomes under the ground. Repeat spraying may be necessary in subsequent years as some rhizomes lay dormant each year and produce foliage a year or two later.

South African Weed Orchid (Disa bracteata)



Wimmera CMA status: Not classified
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Not classified
Distribution notes: Rapidly spreading through the upper Wimmera catchment, African Weed Orchid is becoming an ever increasing problem with each passing year. The plants are small and difficult to find during the spring when actively growing amongst other herbs and annual grasses. The seed stem which grows to about 250mm high makes the plant easier to see but at this stage there is a very short window for chemical control until the spores mature. The spores are very fine and dust like and can be spread by the wind / water movement, the transport of soil on vehicles / tools or by animal traffic. Under-ground corms (bulbs) remain in the soil to re-shoot the following year. South African Weed Orchid is easily confused with native onion / leek orchids so be sure to identify plants for sure.
Seed viability in soil: < 10 years
Time to reproductive maturity: 2 + years
Control options: Individual plants can be dug out by hand but be sure to get both bulbs (2 per plant, sometimes more). Plants and corms can be burnt or left in a sealed plastic bag in the sun to destroy the plants and seed stem. If plants have been allowed to mature to the point where the seed stem is drying off it is best to leave the plant alone as any disturbance at this stage will spread the spores into the air and onto clothing, gloves and tools. After completing control work or changing to another location, sterilise digging tools and clean off all soil from shoes and gloves to avoid spreading the spores. Spot spraying is possible from when plants emerge in early spring through to flowers start to mature in November – early December. Glyphosate 450g/kg at a rate of 800mls per 100 litres (or 8mls per litre) of spray mix has proven to be effective but will kill surrounding grasses and other plants. There is evidence that if Glyphosate is applied before the spores mature it will drastically reduce the amount of mature spores produce with most being sterile and not able to grow. The addition of 80 grams (or .8 grams per litre) of Ammonia Sulphate adjuvant to the spray mix will drastically speed up the action of Glyphosate herbicide resulting in plants browning off in about a week. Ammonia Sulphate is purchased from agricultural supply stores in a granular form and is relatively cheap and a recommended addition to the spray mix. Metsulfuron Methyl has proven to be fairly ineffective possible due to the length of time it takes to completely kill a plant. It is recommended that infestations be treated up to three times during the 3 months of active growth during the spring and early summer to initially pick up and treat plants in their rosette stage and again when flowering starts and finally before the seed stems mature in an attempt to pick up all plants as there is generally a staggered growth progression with plants shooting and going to seed at different times.

Sallow Wattle (Acacia longifolia var longifolia)



Wimmera CMA status: Not classified
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Not classified
Distribution notes: Infestations of Sallow Wattle are mainly found in the western side of the upper Wimmera catchment particularly in the areas of Ledcourt and Dadswells Bridge bordering the extensive infestations in the north of the Grampians National Park. Scattered localised infestations can be found along roadsides and areas of native bushland between the Grampians and Stawell and in the area of the Grange golf course along Pleasant Creek just east of Stawell. The local Sallow Wattle is a hybrid between Sydney Golden Wattle *(Acacia longifolia)* and Coastal Wattle *(Acacia sophorae)* which is highly invasive and vigorous able to out compete local acacia species particularly after fire where it forms dense thickets. In the past Sallow Wattle has been used in revegetation plantings with many of the current infestations outside of the Grampians originating from plantings in revegetation corridors. Like other acacias, Sallow Wattle seed is stimulated to germinate after fire or soil disturbance.
Seed viability in soil: <50 years
Time to reproductive maturity: 18 months +
Control options: Individual juvenile plants can be pulled out by hand. Larger plants to the size of small saplings can also be pulled by hand or with the aid of a tractor. Larger mature bushes and trees need to be cut off as close to ground level as possible with all leaf material totally removed from the stump. Experience has shown that this is usually enough to kill the tree which does not have the ability to re-shoot from the stump once all leaf / growing points have been removed. If an area has been burnt, a mass seed germination will occur which can be a good opportunity to deplete the seed stored in the soil by hand pulling all seedlings before they get to about 18 months in age and the first opportunity to flower and set seed.

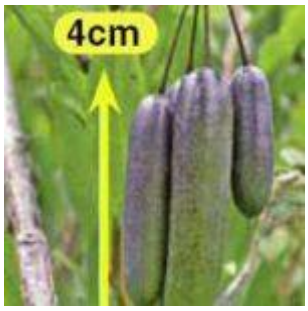
Watsonia (Watsonia meriana)



Wimmera CMA status: Restricted
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Restricted
Distribution notes: Found throughout the upper Wimmera near old house sites, cemeteries and neglected land. A large infestation exists along Donald Creek in the Granny's lane area of the Black Range near Stawell.
Seed viability: unknown
Time to reproductive maturity: 2 + years
Control options: Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix. Glyphosate 450g/kg at a rate of 800mls + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix is also effective but will kill surrounding grasses and other plants.

Bluebell Creeper (Billardiera heterophylla)





Wimmera CMA status: Not classified
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Not classified
Distribution notes: A highly invasive climber native to south western WA, Bluebell Creeper has been planted as an ornamental native perennial plant. Highly viable seeds are spread by birds eating the fruit and depositing seeds in their excrement. Isolated infestations are known to exist around the Grange Golf course near Stawell and a large infestation on the south western side of Lake Fyan's in bushland reserve.
Seed viability: < 3 years
Time to reproductive maturity: 2 years
Control options: Small individual plants can be dug out and disposed of (bag the plants for disposal to stop the spread of seed if fruit are present) or burnt on site. Larger mature plants can be cut off at the base and the stump immediately painted with neat glyphosate herbicide. If the plants have climbed other shrubs / trees simply cut off at the stump, paint with neat herbicide and leave the plant hung up. If mature plants are growing / climbing through native vegetation, spraying may not be an option due to off-target damage. If spraying is an option, Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix should be effective. Spray when actively growing between August and December for best results. Fruit will be present on plants from late summer through Autumn so time control work prior to fruit set to eliminate another years seed production.

Sweet Pittosporum (Pitosporum undulatum)



Wimmera CMA status: Not classified
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Not classified
Distribution notes: Mainly found in the Iron Barks area on the edge of Stawell, Sweet Pittosporum is a fairly uncommon sight in the upper Wimmera having escaped from neighbouring gardens. Sweet Pittosporum is a native species naturally found in eastern Victoria and the coastal forests of New South Wales an can be quite invasive in higher rainfall areas.
Seed viability in soil: unknown
Time to reproductive maturity: 5 + years
Control options: Individual juvenile plants can be pulled out by hand. Larger plants to the size of small saplings can also be pulled by hand or with the aid of a tractor. Larger mature bushes and trees need to be cut off as close to ground level as possible with all leaf material totally removed from the stump. Paint the stump as soon as possible with neat Glyphosate herbicide.

Blue Periwinkle (Vinca major)



Wimmera CMA status: Not classified
Glenelg-Hopkins CMA status: Not classified
Distribution notes: Another garden escapee that can be found associated with old house sites, rubbish tips and roadsides; Blue Periwinkle is not a serious problem to the upper Wimmera but is quite conspicuous along roadsides where present particularly when in flower.
Seed viability in soil: Unknown
Time to reproductive maturity: Spread by stem fragments
Control options: Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix. Glyphosate 450g/kg at a rate of 800mls + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix is also effective but will kill surrounding grasses and other plants.

Arum Lily



Wimmera CMA status: Environmental
Distribution notes: Another garden escapee that can be found associated with old house sites, rubbish tips and roadsides; Arum Lily is not a serious problem to the upper Wimmera but is quite conspicuous along waterways and has the potential to become well established and spread.
Arum lily is a robust, dark green, succulent herb, also known as calla or white arum lily. It was introduced to WA from South Africa as a garden plant and subsequently escaped to become established as a weed. It is found in creeks, irrigation ditches and areas of summer-moist land in the higher rainfall south west of WA, often forming large dense clumps.
Arum lily competes with valuable perennial pasture plants on summer land. It has been claimed to cause eczema in humans. Stock deaths have occurred from grazing arum lily.
Arum lily has fleshy roots and forms extensive tubers which store food for future use. The roots when boiled provide a starchy food for some South African tribes, however, they are poisonous when eaten raw.
Arum lily spreads vegetatively by regeneration from tuber fragments and by seeds.

Leaves: the petioles (leaf stalks) are up to 0.4 metres long and smooth; the leaf blades are thick and fleshy, pointed at the apex with blunt lobes at the base.
Flowers: white to greenish white and tubular flowers, becoming funnel shaped at the top with a slit down one side. Flowering takes place in spring.
Fruit: the berry is oval, yellowish, about one centimetre in diameter and contains several round seeds about three millimetres in diameter.

Seed viability: unknown
Time to reproductive maturity: 2 + years
Control options: Metsulfuron Methyl 600g/kg at a rate of 15g + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100

litres of spray mix. Glyphosate 450g/kg at a rate of 800mls + penetrant (Consume, Pulse etc) + dye per 100 litres of spray mix is also effective but will kill surrounding grasses and other plants.