

A GOOD WEED



Newsletter of The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.

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PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2076

Secretary: Alan Murphy

Editor: Lawrie Greenup

Assistant Editor: Stephen Johnson

47 Autumn 2009



Rubus niveus grows to two metres tall and produces numerous red drupes which blacken on maturity



Rubus niveus leaflets and white cane

Images : NSW Department of Primary Industries



Office Bearers for 2009

President	Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga]
Vice President	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
Immediate Past President	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
Secretary	Alan Murphy [Umina]
Treasurer	Jim Swain [Thornleigh]
Public Officer	Mike Barrett [Beecroft]

Committee Members and

Newsletter Editor	Lawrie Greenup [Westleigh]
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Stephen Johnson [Orange]
CAWS Delegates	Rex Stanton [Wagga Wagga], Warwick Felton [Tamworth],
Committee	Peter Dowling [Ingleburn], Warwick Felton [Tamworth], Peter Harper [Ingleburn], Deirdre Lemerle [Wagga Wagga], Luc Streit [Chatswood], Birgitte Verbeek [Tamworth], Hanwen Wu [Wagga Wagga]

Committee Meeting Dates for 2009 - contact Secretary for details

February 6	March 20	June 5
August 14	October 9	December 11
Annual General Meeting	November 11	

Newsletter issues & deadlines for 2009 are as follows:

# 47 Autumn	28 February	# 48 Winter	31 May
# 49 Spring	31 August	# 50 Summer	30 November

Weed Society of New South Wales

The Society was formed in 1966, the first weed society in Australia. It is affiliated with similar societies in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand under the umbrella organisation – The Council of Australasian Weeds Societies [CAWS]

Society Aims:-

- To promote a wider interest in weeds and their management.
- To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their management and to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed management.
- To co-operate with other organisation engaged in related activities in Australia, New Zealand and overseas.
- To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- To produce and publish such material as may be considered desirable.

Membership is open to all and costs \$40.00 per annum for general membership, \$20.00 per annum for bona fide students. For an application form contact: **Secretary PO Box 438 WAHROONGA NSW 2067**

website www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Email contacts: Secretary: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au
Treasurer: treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au
Editor: editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Society News

President's Column

I take this opportunity in the first newsletter of the year to welcome members back from the festive season and wish all members a safe and rewarding year.



The loss of the Co-operative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (CRC AWM) is still being felt by the weeds community. The CRC played a vital role in ensuring networking occurred at a national level. The CRC also assisted with

packaging research information into educational programs so that the new knowledge gained could be put into practice. Despite much promise from the government to fund and establish a new Australian Weeds Centre, little progress has been evident to date.

Nurseries have had good and bad press in recent times. There have been reports of some nurseries selling plants that are known weeds. The most serious involved the inadvertent sale of Mexican feathergrass, and the nursery industry has been supportive of trying to recall plants that were sold. On a more positive note, nominations for the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) Weedwise Nursery Award are now being taken. This is an opportunity for nurseries to gain recognition for their commitment to responsible sale of plants. Nurseries can either self-nominate, or may be nominated by a third party. Please visit the CAWS website for more details.

By the time members are reading this newsletter, the new Society website will be up and running. I would encourage all Society members to browse the site and we would welcome any feedback on what improvements or additions can be made. Over time, we do hope to have older editions of the Society newsletter available on-line.

The next Australasian Weeds Conference will be held next year in Christchurch, New Zealand. This is the first time since joining the CAWS that New Zealand has hosted the conference. The conference website is already running, and I would encourage people to visit the website and support the conference.

This year, the Society is preparing to hold two seminars around September, one regionally based and one metropolitan based. Both seminars will have a focus on herbicides, with several invited speakers presenting keynote papers at both seminars. More details will be provided by the organizing committees in the next newsletter. Society members are encouraged to participate in either organizing committee – many hands make light work.

As always, the editors would warmly welcome any member contributing material to include in the newsletter. This may be material produced by the member, or perhaps an interesting article they have seen elsewhere that may be of interest to other Society members.

Rex Stanton

Check out our new website

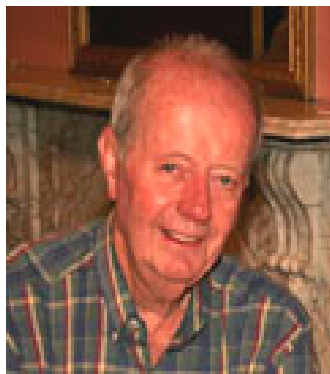
www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Society News

Treasurer's Column

In the Treasurer's report to the committee of the Weed Society of NSW Inc. for the period 1st October 2008 to the 2nd February 2009 a loss of \$4,044.17 was shown.

When amounts owing to the society from the NSW Division of the AIAST for registrations received by them on behalf of the society for the joint GM Crops seminar and outstanding sponsorship fees are received the loss for this financial year will be \$1,027.81.



This loss situation will be reversed when the 2009 subscription renewals are received.

The current Australian financial crises will reduce the interest received by the society on its term deposits and, as a result, the committee will be looking at ways to reduce expenses so that the services provided to members can be maintained.

Membership

We currently have 139 fully paid financial members for 2008; 2 life members and 25 who have not paid their membership for 2008.

This gives us a nominal membership of 166. Those unfinancial for 2008 are still receiving the members' benefits.

The subscription notices for 2009 have now been sent out and we ask you to make your payment as soon as possible and before the 1 June 2009.

Those who are in arrears for 2008 are asked to make their payment of \$80.00 by the 1 June 2009.

Members who have not paid their fees by that time will be removed for the membership list and will not receive the newsletter and the other services provided by the society. Thus we ask you to pay your outstanding fees or advise us that you do not wish to continue as a member.

The membership subscription notice for 2009 is being sent in a new format and on payment of fees will become a tax invoice for GST purposes. As a result receipts will not be sent.

Application forms for membership of the Society can be downloaded from the Society's website – www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Sponsors and Supporters

The following sponsors and supporters have committed themselves to work with the Society for 2009:-

- **Bayer CropScience**
- **ChemCert Ltd**
- **Dow AgroSciences**
- **Luhrmann Environment Management Pty Ltd**
- **NSW Department of Primary Industries**
- **Scott's**
- **Syngenta**

We thank them for their continued support and welcome new sponsor ChemCert Ltd.

Jim Swain.
Hon Treasurer.
treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au

March 2009.

Society News

New Member

Dr Mary Greenwood

Regional NRM Coordinator for Weeds
Hunter Councils

Mary has a Doctorate in Environmental Science and has an interest in weeds in general, pasture weeds, weed management and noxious weed control.

The committee accepted Mary's application to be a member and welcomes her to the Society.

New Committee Member

Birgitte Verbeek

Birgitte has worked for the last 22 years for NSW Department of Primary Industries. Starting as a technical officer supporting research programs including control of weedy annual grasses in cropping and pasture systems, fallow weed management and development of competitive



Birgitte Verbeek

crops to reduce the reliance of farmers on herbicides to manage weeds. She then held the position of Regional Weed Control Coordinator for the Riverina Region where she worked along side local government and other land managers to

carry out functions under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. She led task 5.2 within the Education Program of the Weeds CRC. This task was to "Develop the skills of weed professionals". Under this task a wide range of educational resources were produced for the Vocational Education and Training Sector, weed professionals and the general community. Birgitte currently works out of Tamworth Agricultural Institute and holds the position of Weeds Extension Team Leader. Her main priorities in this position are to continue providing quality information resources and training for Weed professional and NRM managers in NSW and beyond. She says that she has a great team of people she works with and hopes that the funding and support continues to keep the work going.

Society Events for 2009

- **Seminars**

'New Developments in Herbicide Use'
September 2009
Narrabri & Sydney

- **Annual General Meeting**

Venue: To be determined
November 11

- **Annual Dinner**

Venue: To be determined
November 11

All enquiries re these events contact:

Secretary: secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au

Website (Events) www.nswweedsoc.org.au

Society News

Peter Harper Inventor and TV Film Star Weed Society Committee Member

Peter won the ABC's THE NEW INVENTORS episode in which he appeared demonstrating an aquatic weed control invention – Hydrogel. Subsequently, he went on to win the People's Award.

Well done Peter.

Peter developed a gel, Hydrogel, to eradicate submerged aquatic weeds common in waterways.

Hydrogel was demonstrated to be a viable alternative to heavy mechanical harvesting in allowing the submerged weed to be removed at about a quarter of the cost and allowing increased water flows .

Aquatic weeds have increased in Australian waterways and major problems are experienced in the Hawkesbury/Nepean River system. Many of the aquatic weed species have originated from the aquarium trade, either deliberately released or accidentally washed into rivers and creeks.

The more damaging species affect the biodiversity of the river ecosystem choking out native species and eliminating natural water flow. Slow moving water allows other weed species to become entangled in the more damaging and prolific species resulting in unsightly waterways and allowing the breeding of mosquitoes.

The Hydrogel application demonstration was filmed in January 2009 by the ABC New Inventors film crew at Light Horse Park, Liverpool.

The site had a heavy infestation of the submerged weed, dense waterweed *Egeria densa*, which was covered in a thick carpet of algae.

Within four (4) weeks the treated area, approximately 2 500m², was clear of the combined *Egeria*/algae infestation.

More information: peterharper@bettersafe.com.au

Before and after images shown on the ABC's THE NEW INVENTORS program



Georges River, Liverpool December 2006



Georges River, Liverpool March 2007

Society News

Travel Study Grant

The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. offers travel support grants.

Successful applicants receive financial assistance to attend conferences, or to travel on specific interstate or overseas study tours. The grant is for the period from 1 July to 30 June each year and must be taken up during that period.

Applicants must be:-

- over 18 years old,
- reside in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory,
- be involved in weed research, management, advisory, regulation or practice, and
- have been a current member of the Society for at least one year.

Rarely will the grant meet all of the expenses so applicants are expected to contribute, or arrange additional support elsewhere.

Successful applicants are expected to return to service in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory and are required to submit a written report to the Society soon after returning to duty.

Applications are to be forwarded by 1 June each year to:-

The Secretary
Weed Society of New South Wales Inc.
PO Box 438
WAHROOGNA NSW 2076

Applications forms can be downloaded from the Society's website www.nswweedsoc.org.au or by contacting the secretary at the above postal address

A New Image for the Society



New Logo



New Newsletter Design

**New Letterhead
&
New and Relevant Website**
www.nswweedsoc.org.au

New Contact Details

Secretary – Treasurer – Editor
secretary@nswweedsoc.org.au
treasurer@nswweedsoc.org.au
editor@nswweedsoc.org.au

Special thanks

Kwik Kopy, Hornsby for the design of the logo, newsletter 'A Good Weed' and letterhead
Graeme Forsythe, Graeme Forsythe & Associates, for redesigning and up-dating the Society's website

Society News & What's On with Other Societies

From the Editor

The Society is always looking for material for 'A Good Weed' - local & regional news about people & events, new emerging weed species, weed management issues, weed research summaries, book reviews and anything to do with weeds.

Good quality images are always welcome and the source will be acknowledged. Images, except for those on the front cover, will be reproduced in black and white in the newsletter.

Material submission dates:

# 48	Winter	31 May
# 49	Spring	31 August
# 50	Summer	30 November

'A Good Weed' is produced by The Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. Material from 'A Good Weed' can be reproduced and circulated with the acknowledgement of the authors

The opinions expressed in "A Good Weed" by contributors are not necessarily those of the Executive Committee of The Weeds Society of New South Wales Inc.

New South Wales

Seminar: Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology – NSW Division
'The World's worst pests and diseases: How safe is Australia?'

16 April 2009

NSW DPI Elizabeth Macarthur Institute,
 Menangle

AIAS website: www.aiast.com.au

New South Wales

15th Biennial NSW Weeds Conference
'The Old and the New' (Changes in Weed Management)

15 -19 September 2009

The Crossing Theatre, Narrabri

www.weedsconference.com

secretary@weedsconference.com

Australia & New Zealand

17th Australasian Weeds Conference
'New Frontiers in New Zealand'

26 – 30 September 2010

www.17awc.org

Christchurch, New Zealand

Queensland

10th Queensland Weed Symposium
'Managing Weeds in a Climate of Change'

26 – 29 July 2009

Yeppoon, Queensland

www.wsq.org.au/10thWeedSymposium/home/html

Victoria

4th Victorian Weed Conference
'Plants behaving badly in Agriculture and the Environment'

7 – 8 October 2009

Mercure Hotel, Geelong, Victoria

www.wsvic.org.au

Seminar - followed by 43rd Annual General Meeting - Weed Society of Victoria

'Modelling the Potential Distribution of Weeds'

16 April 2009

Department of Primary Industries, Attwood,
 Victoria

www.wsvic.org.au

GM Seminar Speaker Summary



Murray Scholz

Murray is a farmer from Culcairn, southern NSW. He is the manager of the 1 600 ha family farm growing wheat, canola and lupins. His family have been avid up-takers of new technology and they have been practicing no-till farming for approximately 25 years. They also run a shorthorn operation.

In 2007 Murray was awarded a Nuffield Australia Scholarship to study the implications of herbicide tolerant genetically modified crops on weed management.

Integrated Weed Management and the Implications of Herbicide Tolerant Crops (Summary of Presentation)

*Murray Scholz
2007 Nuffield Australia Scholar*

- Herbicides have changed the way farmers grow crops by allowing them to practice reduced tillage, but some weeds have developed resistance to herbicides.
- The number of new herbicides coming to the market is decreasing because of reduced research, higher development costs, and more stringent environmental standards.
- Genetically modified herbicide tolerant crops have been grown commercially in North America since 1996. Soybeans, canola, corn, cotton, alfalfa and sugar beets have been released.
- Positives of the technology have been simple and effective weed control, perceived to be easy to manage, has allowed an easy uptake of no-till cropping, and higher end profits (but not always).
- Negatives have been weed shifts, weeds developing resistance to glyphosate, gene flow in species and between species, and a strong degree of management is required to deal with issues like herbicide drift and volunteer weeds in following crops.
- Canada has been successful in using the technology to achieve higher profits and cleaner paddocks. The USA has also had some success, but the lack of crop rotation,

and the continuous growing of HT crops is leading to major issues with glyphosate resistant weeds, especially in cotton.

- HT crops are not the only context in which weeds are developing resistance to glyphosate. Fallow systems and use on roadsides also are developing resistant weeds.
- Australian farmers should be allowed to grow HT canola which is expected to provide improved weed control and yields than the triazine tolerant varieties that are now grown. There needs to be limits (possibly by regulation) to the amount of time between HT canola crops. Farmers also need to use integrated weed management techniques like pre-emergent herbicides, diverse rotations, rotation of knockdown herbicides and non herbicide methods.
- If weeds develop resistance to glyphosate it could limit growers' ability to continue to use reduced tillage.

The recommendations for southern NSW I feel are needed to try and prevent weeds developing resistance to glyphosate are:

- Use a pre-emergent herbicide and do not rely totally on glyphosate.
- Grow hybrid varieties with good seedling vigour to give weeds strong competition.
- Spray when conditions are good, not when weeds are stressed.
- Budget to apply glyphosate twice on a crop. It is better to kill the weeds when they are small and come back with a second application if needed.

- Check the quality of the water they are using to spray.
- Grow canola **only** once every 3 or 4 years on any paddock.
- Monitor their paddocks after spraying and be prepared to use another herbicide if results are not up to scratch.
- Rotate knockdown herbicides and be aware of volunteers.
- Use non-herbicide methods of weed control like increased seeding rates in the following cereals or burning everything that passes through the header either with a chaff cart or in the row.
- Do not expect HT crops to solve weed problems in one year. Farmers could make silage or brown manuring a problem paddock the year before planting RR canola.
- Consider occasional cultivation.
- Australia has benefited from the uptake in no-till farming systems. Soil erosion has been reduced, soil carbon levels increased and crops are using water more efficiently. A report recently released by the Australian Farm Institute looked at the value of environmental services provided by Australian farmers. It concluded that reduced tillage techniques in northern NSW between the 1970's and 2002 had an environmental value of \$1.2 billion. The introduction of glyphosate has enabled farmers to adapt to their environment and farm in a way that suits the Australian climate. If there were widespread glyphosate resistant weeds it would limit farmer's ability to continue to no-till.

GM Seminar Speaker Summary



Jonathan Benyei

Jonathan manages the Evaluation Branch of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator in Canberra.

Their responsibilities include the review and approval for the release of genetically modified crops in Australia.

His role at the seminar was to provide a clear message as to what regulations are in place and the processes that take place for those crops to be available for farmers to use in Australia.

Regulation of GM Crops in Australia

(Summary of presentation)

Jonathan Benyei, Office of the Gene Technology Regulator

The objective of the Gene Technology Act 2000 is 'to protect the health and safety of people, and the environment, by identifying risks posed by or as a result of gene technology, and by managing those risks through regulating certain dealings with genetically modified organisms (GMOs)'. The Act requires that this regulatory objective is achieved whilst maintaining a cautious approach, providing an efficient and effective system for gene technologies, and ensuring cooperation with other Commonwealth and State regulatory schemes.

The Australian Gene Technology Regulator commenced operation in 2001 to provide independent evaluation and regulation of GM organisms in Australia, including GM crops. It has achieved the balance required under the Act

through the development of a comprehensive *Risk Analysis Framework*.

Scientific evidence-based comparative risk analysis is the primary decision-making tool in regulating activities with GMOs, with peer review of all GM crop risk assessments provided by an expert committee and through consultation with the public and government agencies. Although specific legislation may differ between Australia and other countries, we share many common protection goals to restrict harm to people and the environment from, for example, toxicity, allergenicity and weediness.

In Australia, every licence application is considered on a case-by-case basis and the response considers the chance of an adverse outcome, together with the causal pathway and

consequences of such an adverse outcome (if any). In the process of questioning pathways, only credible risks are identified and subjected to further scrutiny, with risk management measures proposed to address any adverse outcomes.

Ongoing Development

The independent review of the *Gene Technology Act* undertaken in 2005-2006 concluded that the objects of the Act were being achieved and suggested a number of minor changes to improve the operation of the regulatory framework. These changes, implemented in 2007-2008, include the differentiation between field trials and commercial scale licence applications, and measures to reduce the administrative burden on low-risk often proof-of-concept work conducted in contained facilities.

They seek to enable the resources of the Regulator to be focused on areas of greatest potential risk to people and/or the environment.

Around 60 field trials of a wide range of GM plants have been approved, but only GM cotton, canola and carnations have been approved for commercial release in Australia. A post-release monitoring framework for commercial GM crops in Australia has been extended and a protocol has been developed with other key stakeholders to assess weed risks, if any, associated with GM plants.

Contact details:

Email: : ogtr@health.gov.au

Phone: 1800 181 030

www.ogtr.gov.au



New resources from the Nursery and Garden Industry

New **Grow Me Instead** booklets have been produced for the Sydney Basin/Blue Mountains, the NSW South Coast region and the ACT by the Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA).

The booklets help in:

- identifying plants grown and sold within the nursery industry considered invasive to the environment,
- identifying suitable alternative suggestions of both introduced and Australian species where possible, and
- educating the community through the nursery network so that propagation and sale of invasive plants eventually ceases.

By selecting plants carefully at a local nursery or garden centre or from the alternative plants suggested in the booklet people can achieve an environmentally 'friendly' garden. In so doing, helping to preserve indigenous species and habitat for native fauna.

Contact: peterwhitehead@ngina.com.au

An Emerging New Blackberry Weed Species

New blackberry species found on the New South Wales North Coast

A new blackberry (*Rubus*) species, thought to be Hill raspberry (Ceylon raspberry, and Mysore raspberry), *Rubus niveus* has been found on the North Coast of New South Wales (NSW).

This blackberry may have been introduced to the Coffs Harbour area as a commercial or domestic planting. It has now spread and is recognised as an emerging weed threat to remnant bushland in Coramba/Karangie area west of Coffs Harbour on the Orara way.

The blackberry grows to 2 metres in height, flowers in November and then shortly after produces red drupes maturing to black. The arching canes are covered in white and there are numerous prickles present.



***Rubus niveus* showing leaflets and the numerous red drupes which turn black as they mature.**

Image: NSW DPI

Like many other blackberries, this species is dispersed by seeds eaten by birds. It also roots at the cane tips and may produce new plants via underground runners. This often results in dense

impenetrable thickets under perch trees and along fence lines.

There are at least 23 exotic species of *Rubus* (blackberry) species in Australia, and at least 15 of these belonged to what was known as the *Rubus fruticosus* aggregate (Evans *et al.* 2004). The *Rubus fruticosus* species aggregate is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS).

Many cultivated and naturalised blackberry species in Australia are from European and North American origin. They are generally a problem in more temperate climate rather than coastal areas.

In contrast, this species is of Asian origin with information summarised by PIER (2009) suggesting the native range of the species is from India through south east Asia, the Philippines and Indonesia species. It is the second species of Asiatic origin that is known to have naturalised in NSW. The other species is Keriberry, *Rubus rugosus*, (Hosking *et al.* 2007) and is native to India, Nepal and Sri Lanka to the Malay peninsula and Vietnam.

According to Hosking *et al.* (2007), Keriberry was promoted as a source of edible fruit and was found to have naturalised near original plantings. Although it is unclear how and for what purpose Hill raspberry, it is likely that plantings of the species have occurred in the area and this/these are the source of the bird dispersed naturalisations.

The apparent increase of *Rubus* species of Asiatic origin in coastal NSW is reason for concern in an area already affected by many woody weeds such as Lantana, *Lantana camara*.

Further information on the naturalisation and declaration of blackberry species in NSW can be found in the following paper (Johnson and Lisle 2008), originally published in the 2008 14th Biennial Noxious Weeds Conference Proceedings.



Rubus niveus plants are often found along fence lines and under perch sites. Plants can grow to two metres in height. Image: NSW DPI

References

Evans K J, Symons D E, Whalen M A, Barker R M, Hosking J R and Oliver J A (2004) Taxonomic update and lucid key for introduced blackberry in Australia. *Proceedings of the 14th Australian Weeds Conference*. Eds. B M Sindel and S B Johnson. September 2004, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales. pp. 509-512.

Hosking J R, Conn B J, Lepschi B J and Barker C H (2007). Plant species first recognised as naturalised for New South Wales in 2002 and 2003 and additional comments on plants first recognized as naturalized in New South Wales in 2000 and 2001. *Cunninghamia*, **10**, 139-166.

Johnson, S. B. and Lisle, S. D. (2007). Naturalisation and Declaration of Blackberries in New South Wales. *Proceedings of the 14th Biennial NSW weeds conference*, University of Wollongong.

PIER (2009). *Rubus niveus*. Thunb. Rosaceae. Online at http://www.hear.org/species/rubus_niveus/

Miconia - New Occurrence in NSW

In July 2008, Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*) was detected on private property in the Tweed near Murwillumbah. Miconia has demonstrated its capacity to rapidly infest steep country in high rainfall areas in Tahiti and Hawaii and rapidly displace native species. What was unusual about this new occurrence was that it was the first time Miconia had been found growing 'in the wild' in NSW. All previous records in NSW had been deliberately planted or were plants in nurseries.

Far North Coast Weeds has pulled together a taskforce with representation from all relevant local and state government authorities on both sides of the border to oversee the surveillance exercise. Far North Coast Weeds will coordinate the flow of information on what has been searched and oversee any eradication activities.

Further information: Ross Garsden ross.garsden@fncw.nsw.gov.au

What Does Your Garden Grow? - Workshops & Resources

Annette Beer has advised that the *What does your garden grow?* workshops are to continue and resources will continue to be available.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management has designed an excellent set of resources addressing the issue of weeds escaping from gardens into the environment.

What does your garden grow? covers introductory information on where weeds are a problem, how weeds spread and the theory and practice behind control measures.

The five topics covered are:

1. What, why and where of weeds?
2. When is a plant a weed?
3. What does your garden grow?
4. How do we take control?
5. Why don't you grow me instead?

Topics 1 to 5 can be delivered as a short course of 3½ hours; as shorter individual sessions, or, parts of it can be incorporated into any formal training programs (with appropriate acknowledgment) e.g. CLM training.

This short course empowers ordinary citizens to protect their environment as they garden

These resources are currently located on the website of the Weeds CRC: http://www.weedsrc.org.au/education_training/what_does_your_garden_grow.html

Under the Weeds CRC banner thirty-four 'train the trainer' workshops have been conducted in six states with some 530 potential trainers walked through and provided with the training materials which enables them to deliver this weed awareness program to their clients.



***What does your garden grow workshop?
Fairfield Sydney***

Even though the Weeds CRC has concluded, these workshops have continued without Weeds CRC funding.

They have been funded by many different interested groups and individual participants on a full cost recovery basis.

The 'Train the trainer' workshop is designed for all production and retail nursery staff, TAFE Teachers, council or environmental weeds officers, community garden group leaders, Landcare and Bushcare, other DPI or NRM staff, staff in Government Departments concerned with the environment.

What does you garden grow?

- shows participants how to manage weeds in their own garden
- shows the importance of weeds in the Australian environment
- describes how weeds spread
- recognises the importance of plant identification
- considers the idea of growing less weedy plants for the benefit of environment.

How can your organisation benefit?

- Consider hosting a workshop
- Apply for funding to enable your organisation to provide these workshops to clients
- Obtain the resources for your own interest and use.

What does you garden grow? workshops

Workshop times **9 am to 3 pm** unless stated otherwise.

Cost: \$200 per person inc GST

Includes resource kit, tuition, lunch and M tea. (Cost will reduce if new funding is made available)

Dates

NSW

To be negotiated – April onwards



What does your garden grow? workshop. Mt Tomah Blue Mountains

For more information on hosting workshops or to obtain a *What does your garden grow?* training resource.

Contact: Annette Beer, Education Officer Ph. 02 6938 1671 email ;Annette.beer@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Accreditation Programs

The Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (IAST) has developed the new AgCredited/EnviroCredited national accreditation program for professionals working in agriculture and natural resource management.

The program has been developed to meet the growing demand for increasingly higher levels of advice and support from advisors/consultants/researchers servicing the agricultural and natural resource management sectors.

Both programs are based on a national industry standards aligned to the national Vocational Education and Training (VET) framework.

To become accredited candidates need to meet specified national core and specialist competencies. Those who are successful in obtaining accreditation will be entitled to use the AgCredited/ EnviroCredited logo, which will become a symbol for superior professional advice and practice.

AgCredited/EnviroCredited will enable professionals working in agriculture and natural resource management to build and maintain and provide the highest possible quality of professional competency and advice to clients.

It will also give clients confidence to know who they can trust when they seek help from consultants, researchers, advisors and scientists.

Skills recognition forms the basis of the AgCredited/EnviroCredited national accreditation program and provides the opportunity for practitioners in any field to gain formal recognition of skills and knowledge acquired through experience.

To maintain accreditation individuals have to undertake an ongoing professional development programme that ensures continued provision of leadership in their respective fields.

The professional development programme fits within the Australian Qualifications Framework and focuses on maintaining relevance and building professional capability.

How will the accreditation process operate?

On receipt of an inquiry a potential applicant, National Office (of IAST) will direct the applicant to the enrolment form and other information on the website at www.agcredited.com.au.

- The applicant will send the completed enrolment form directly to the IAST.
- National Office will contact the applicant and advise them that their service provider will be Tocal College who will then appoint a skills recognition officer who will outline to them the accreditation process.

Tocal College as the Registered Training Organisation will:

- Contact the applicant and explain the requirements of the accreditation program - how to select units and how to collect evidence for accreditation.
- Determine with the candidate whether their case will be completed by desktop or interview.

IAST will:

- Once final payment has been received advise Tocal College that the candidate can commence the program.

Tocal College will:

- Undertake with the applicant the accreditation process.
- Advise the IAST of completion date of each candidate.
- Issue to each successful candidate a statement of attainment

IAST will:

- Produce a certificate and completion letter – with a dedicated registration number and completion date, signed by AIAST CEO, along with information regarding the use of AgCredited/EnviroCredited logos and post nominal and the future professional development requirements.
- Three years after accreditation is obtained the client will be contacted and advised that to maintain their accreditation they must complete an approved professional development within 5 years.

For further information contact:

Ms. Diana Melham,
Chief Executive Office
Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and
Technology
PO Box 281
Deakin West 2600

Jim Swain, Weed Society of New South Wales Inc. treasurer, has been instrumental in developing the accreditation program and is a member of the AIAST and Chair, AgCredited/EnviroCredited Steering Committee

Alligator Weed Outbreak on the Far North Coast

Recently, Far North Coast Weeds has dealt with a number of weed outbreaks, Miconia, alligator weed and water lettuce, warranting a cooperative strategic approach to detection and eradication.

One outbreak, alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*), was discovered near Woodburn in October, following a Far North Coast Weeds' display of aquatic weeds at the Lismore Show. An initial survey detected 46 individual sites within Rocky Mouth Creek. The proximity of this new infestation to the Evans River and the lower Richmond floodplain sent alarm bells ringing. What was necessary was an urgent search of the main river channel downstream from Coraki to Ballina – approximately 75 kilometres of waterways. Such an undertaking was beyond the capacity of one organisation alone.



sites have since been treated and a major on-going surveillance and containment campaign has been mounted.

Once again, the value of a cooperative approach to weed management has delivered prompt and effective results.

Further information:: Ross Garsden ross.garsden@fncw.nsw.gov.au



Rex Stanton
President
CAWS Delegate

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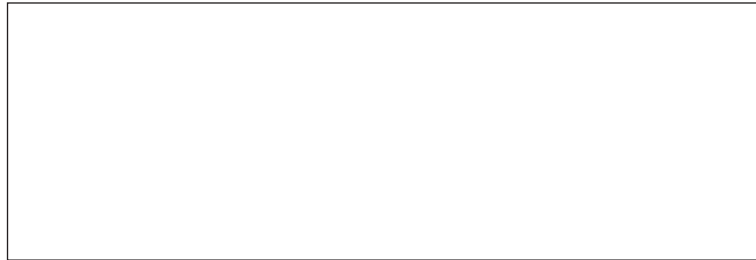
A Good Weed

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