

Environmental and widespread weeds of the Wingecarribee Shire



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Introduction

Weeds are classified into different categories based on their potential impact, with each category carrying specific legal requirements for mandatory control.

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Weeds have many different categories that have different control requirements dependent on what category they fall into.

This booklet is to share information about the most commonly found environmental weeds within the Wingecarribee Shire and advice on the best way to control them and reduce their spread.

Environmental weeds are often plants that have escaped from gardens. These are plants that have a tendency to spread and invade other areas easily. Agapanthus are a good example of a garden escapee. Driving throughout the Wingecarribee Shire, you will notice where agapanthus have spread to roadside verges and invaded bushland reserves and waterways.



Environmental weeds are not currently listed as priority weeds under the South East Regional Weed Management Plan or as state priority weeds.

Wingecarribee Shire Council encourages everyone to control environmental weeds to help protect and reduce the impact they have within our natural areas.

Removing environmental weeds from your property can have far reaching benefits and help improve the biodiversity of our shire, while improving your own property.

Removing weeds, even in small efforts, plays a vital role in protecting ecosystems, supporting agriculture, and safeguarding your local community.

The impact of weeds

Environmental weeds reduce the biodiversity of our natural bushland and waterways. They can also compete with and displace desired plants in your garden and on your property.

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Once a weed species becomes established it can become difficult to remove. The weed can quickly overtake an area if not properly controlled in a timely manner.

The process of removing a weed species becomes more expensive the longer the weed species has to establish itself. When a weed species has dispersed its seeds, these seeds can remain viable in the soil for years, and continue to germinate and reinfest an area until the seed bank has been completely exhausted.

Controlling weeds is the responsibility of everyone in the community, this joint effort will help safeguard and protect our natural environment and landscape from the spread of weeds.

Controlling weeds is an ongoing process that requires regular follow up work to be effective in the removal of weeds.





Ways to reduce the impact of weeds

Weed removal Remove any of the weeds identified within this booklet from your property. Before removing advanced trees, visit council's website for any requirements and permits.

Replacement planting Plant natives as an alternative to invasive weed species, or use exotic plants that have less ability to easily spread.

Proper disposal Place garden waste in your green bin or use composting as an alternative. Never dump green waste. This is often the point of origin for new weed infestations.

Reporting If you suspect somebody has illegally dumped garden waste or you suspect a plant could be a weed, contact council on 4868 0888 for assistance.

How do weeds spread?

Animals can spread weeds by eating the seeds and disperse them in their droppings. They can also get seeds stuck within their fur to later drop off in a different location.

Birds can spread weeds by eating the seeds and disperse them in their droppings.

Illegal waste dumping When plant material is dumped illegally this introduces plants into a new area.

Machinery can often be contaminated with weed seeds and plant parts either trapped in soil on tyres or stuck within the machinery itself.

Soil translocation Soil can contain lots of different seeds. When moved from one location to another this can allow weed species to spread from one area to another.

Vegetatively Some plants can regrow from pieces of plants such as stems, leaves and roots.

Water Weed seeds can spread through waterways, storm water and flooding.

Wind Some seeds have evolved to spread through the air by wind or by passing cars causing turbulent air

Weed control methods

Manual removal

Either pull the plant up by hand or by using a digging tool such as a shovel, mattock, or trowel to remove the whole plant including any roots, bulbs, rhizomes or tubers.



Scrape and paint

Typically used for vines and hard to kill woody plants. Scrape along the stem to expose the growing layer below the outer layer. Immediately apply herbicide to the area that has been scraped back. For the best results scrape in multiple locations around the stem.



Cut and paint

Use a pair of secateurs or a saw, cut the stem as low to the ground as possible. The less material left behind will reduce the amount of stored energy the weed will have to re-shoot. Apply herbicide immediately to the remaining stem.



Stem inject

Use a power or hand drill to make holes about 2–3 cm deep at a 45° angle. Drill in a circular pattern around the base of the woody weed. Fill each hole with herbicide immediately after drilling is completed.





Foliar spraying

Suitable for a wide range of weeds. Check that the herbicide you are using is suitable for the weed species you are controlling. Always follow the label directions and never mix chemicals without direction from the chemical label. Ensure entire foliage is covered for effective control.



Slashing/grazing

This can be an effective way to control certain weeds from developing seeds.

Either by using machinery or livestock to prevent the growth of weeds can help keep them in check and stop them from spreading further.





Regulations around removal of trees

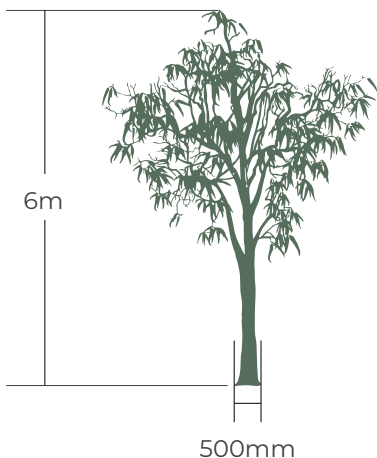
Wingecarribee Shire Council values its tree canopy for the environmental, physical, and social benefits it provides.

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Trees enhance air quality, offer shade, support biodiversity, and improve the aesthetic appeal of the community. To ensure responsible management, tree removal within the Shire is regulated by Wingecarribee Shire Council or Local Land Services.

A tree in the Shire is defined by the Wingecarribee Development Control Plan (DCP) as being greater than 6m in height and having a trunk circumference of at least 500mm. If a tree meets this criteria, you must obtain consent from the appropriate authority before any removal or significant pruning can occur.

Applications for tree removal should be made through council's website, depending on the tree's condition and location. Protecting trees is essential for maintaining the Shire's urban forest.



A height of 6m or more and a trunk width (diameter) of 500mm or more measured at 1.4m above natural ground level.



African love grass

Eragrostis curvula

A tussock like grass which is not palatable to livestock. It grows in clumps up to 1.2m tall and can form dense patches especially within areas where soil has been disturbed, or within low fertility paddocks with patches of bare soil. The grey flowers grow in spike form, in groups of 4–13.

Spread

Animals | Fodder | Machinery
Soil translocation | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Agapanthus

Agapanthus praecox

A large lily like plant commonly found in gardens throughout the Shire. It has long green, glossy leaves that are thick and fleshy. They produce bright blue-purple or white flowers in late November through to early December, with seed pods developing at the end of the flower stalks.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.





Bamboo

Bambusa species

A woody, clumping plant that is a member of the grass family. It can be found throughout the Shire in gardens, roadsides and within bushland reserves. Easily identified by its circular segmented hollow stems. It can outcompete native species and inhibit access to both livestock and native animals.

Spread

Illegal waste dumping | Vegetatively

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Banana passionfruit

Passiflora tarminiana

A woody climber/vine with pink flowers, yellow fruit and three lobed leaves alternatively placed along the stem. Coiled tendrils often grow from the area where the leaf stalk joins the stems.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Barberry

Berberis vulgaris

A deciduous shrub often used as a feature tree or hedge in gardens throughout the Shire. Bright yellow flowers in late spring, with large red berries developing in late summer. Barberry are covered in small sharp spines/thorns.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.





Blackberry

Rubus fruticosus species aggregate

A prickly deciduous vine forming dense stands of canes. It can be found in almost any type of environment from creek lines to open paddocks. Identified by alternative leaves, with up to five leaflets and the dark purple/black fruits that grow during summer.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Blue periwinkle

Vinca major

Found all over the Shire in garden beds, roadsides and disturbed wet areas of bushland. A creeping herbaceous plant, the leaves are tear drop in shape, glossy, and form opposite each other along the stem. The leaves can be variegated. Flowers are bright blue/purple with five petals.

Spread

Birds | Illegal waste dumping | Machinery
Soil translocation | Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Box elder

Acer negundo

A small to medium size deciduous tree, with leaves divided into 3–7 leaflets. A fast growing species often reaching over 1m from seedling within 12 months. Seeds are dry winged fruits often pale yellow turning brown once fully developed.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.



Bridal creeper

Asparagus asparagoides

A climbing vine that grows from autumn to winter and dies back over summer. Leaves are small, green, shiny and oval shaped, ending in a pointed tip. The berries are small, becoming red once fully developed. Bridal creeper grows from underground rhizomes.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Cassia

Senna pendula var. *glabrata*

A fast growing shrub reaching 4m tall. Typically found in coastal areas, it has started appearing in the shire. It forms long skinny pods that contain up to 40 seeds per pod. Once established it can quickly take over an area and outcompete native species.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Cherry laurel

Prunus laurocerasus

A fast growing evergreen shrub often used in hedging throughout the Shire. It produces white flowers in spring and forms fruit through summer and autumn. Large glossy green leaves with prominent yellow mid vein.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.

Cotoneaster

Cotoneaster glaucophyllus

Often used in hedging around the Shire, with small leaves that are dark on-top and light green grey underneath. Cotoneaster forms bright small red fruit in autumn and winter.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

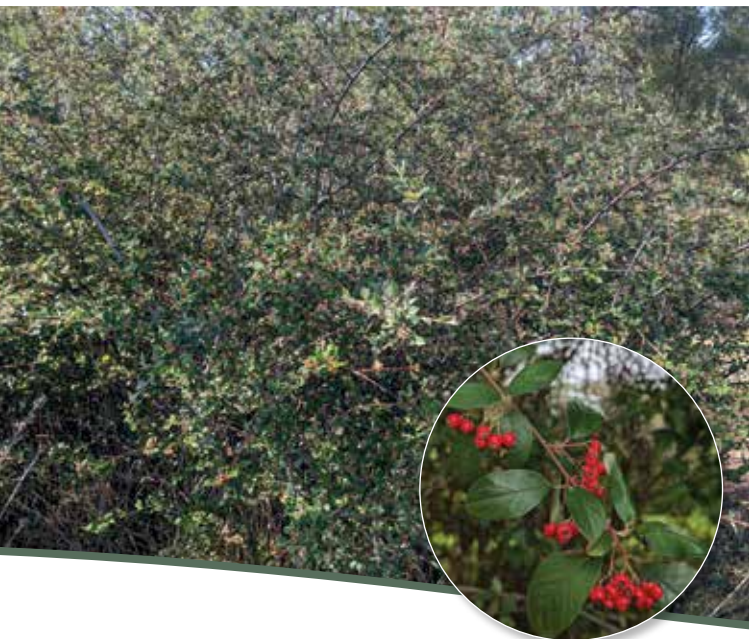
Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.



English holly

Ilex aquifolium

An evergreen shrub often found in old European styled gardens throughout the Shire. Leaves are dark green and spiky. Holly produces bright red berries in late autumn to winter forming in small clusters.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.





English ivy

Hedera helix

An evergreen vine often found throughout the Shire. Often seen growing up trees in gardens, along roadsides and in bushland reserves. It has glossy green leaves with prominent light green veins.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Scrape and paint Gently scrape the stem and apply herbicide directly to the exposed area.

Firethorn

Pyracantha species

An evergreen spiny shrub, leaves can vary between different species, all species produce yellow, orange or red fruit. They can be found all over the Shire in gardens as hedges, on roadsides and in bushland reserves.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.





Fireweed

Senecio madagascariensis

An annual erect herb growing up to 60cm tall. It forms many branches and produces multiple small bright yellow daisy-like flowers 2cm in diameter. Typically flowers from spring through to autumn but can produce flowers all year round if conditions are right.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Fodder | Machinery
Soil translocation | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Forget-me-not

Myosotis sylvatica

A small herbaceous plant that often escapes from gardens throughout the Shire. It grows quickly with large bright green leaves and small flowers typically either blue or white.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Giant bindweed

Calystegia silvatica

A climbing vine that will tightly wrap around other plants or fences. It has thin stems, large rounded lobed leaves and trumpet shaped flowers. Seeds form in balloon like capsules.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Ground asparagus

Asparagus aethiopicus

A new weed to the Shire, currently only found in small patches, however once established it can outcompete native plants and hinder native animals habitat and movements. It produces bright red berries and forms thick dense mats of tubers and roots underneath the surface.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Hawthorn

Crataegus monogyna

A large shrub forming dense thickets, leaves are lobed displaying 3–7 lobes and toothed along the edges. Covered in thorns all over the plant up to 2cm in length, it can produce dark red berries.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.



Hemlock

Conium maculatum

A herbaceous plant with hollow stems. Leaves look very similar to ferns and produce fine white flowers similar to baby's breath. Hemlock is highly toxic to humans and animals. Avoid touching the plant where possible. Always wear gloves when in contact with this plant.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water
Wind

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Inkweed

Phytolacca octandra

A small herbaceous plant growing up to 2m tall. With soft glossy green leaves and bright reddish purple berries that appear black once fully developed, forming from the flower spike. All parts of this plant are toxic to humans. Always wear gloves when in contact with this plant.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation | Water
Wind

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Japanese honey suckle

Lonicera japonica

A fast growing vine with fleshy green leaves growing opposite each other along the stems. The flowers are fragrant white to yellow appearing in autumn. Honeysuckle can form thick dense mats smothering native vegetation quickly.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Jasmine

Jasminum polyanthum

A fast growing ornamental vine often invading bushland reserves from nearby gardens throughout the Shire. The leaves are glossy dark green and divided into 5–9 leaflets. Flowers are white on top with a pinkish red underside.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Montbretia

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora

A strappy leaved plant that produces bright orange flowers during the summer period. Montbretia is a corm (bulb) often dying down over the colder months and reemerging through warmer months.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Panic veldt grass

Ehrharta erecta

A fast growing invasive grass, originally from Africa that quickly outcompetes native ground covers, grows in most conditions. Identified by the bright green flat leaf blade and the oval shaped shiny seeds. Can produce seeds within two months from germination.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Patterson's curse

Echium plantagineum

A herbaceous plant growing up to 60cm in height, the first stage of growth is a rosette. As the plant matures it develops stalks which branches out from the main stem. The whole plant is covered in stiff hairs. The flowers are a vibrant purple colour shaped like a trumpet and form from September through to December.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Fodder | Machinery
Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Privet – broad-leaf

Ligustrum lucidum

A small tree growing up to 10m tall. Dense stands of privet prevent other vegetation surviving or establishing. It has pointed oval shaped glossy green leaves growing opposite each other in pairs. Fruit grows in bunches turning purplish black as they ripen.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.



Privet – narrow-leaf

Ligustrum sinense

A small tree growing up to 5m tall. Dense stands of privet outcompete other plants for water, nutrients and sunlight. Dull green oval shaped leaves growing opposite each other along stems. Fruit forms in bunches dark purple to blue black when ripe.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.





Radiata pine

Pinus radiata

A fast growing tree reaching up to 50m tall. Linear leaves growing in groups of 3, producing a fragrant smell when crushed. Large pine cones, up to 15cm in length and can take over 2 years to fully ripen.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Wind | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.

Note: Although listed as an environmental weed, Council has requirements for the removal of any tree over 6m tall. Please contact council before removing any mature trees.

Red hot poker

Kniphofia uvaria

A hardy lily that forms in thick dense clumps. It can be seen throughout the Shire in gardens and along road sides. The most prominent feature is the flower head which is bright yellow to orange. The leaves are long, bright green and strappy.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Sailor boy daisy

Dimorphotheca ecklonis

An evergreen shrub growing up to 60cm tall. Found throughout the Shire in garden beds, roadsides and along the edges of bushland reserves. It can grow flowers in multiple colours from a single plant and can spread rapidly.

Spread

Illegal waste dumping | Vegetatively
Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Spear thistle

Cirsium vulgare

Found almost throughout the whole Shire. Will readily establish in disturbed or bare areas, along roadsides and in natural areas. Easily spotted by the bright pink/purple flower heads and large spikes that cover the entire plant.

Spread

Animals | Fodder | Machinery
Soil translocation | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.

St. John's wort


Hypericum perforatum

A small herbaceous plant, often undetected until it begins flowering between October and January. Flowers are bright yellow with five petals. It will quickly form tangled thickets and spread rapidly once introduced.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods

 **Foliar spraying** Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Thorn apple

Datura stramonium

An annual herb growing up to 1.5m tall. It grows quickly flowering between summer and autumn. The leaves have a foul smell if broken and the flowers are white, trumpet shaped, which form spiky seed pods. The entire plant is poisonous.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Fodder
Illegal waste dumping | Machinery
Soil translocation | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Trad

Tradescantia fluminensis

A herbaceous creeping plant often found along roadsides and on the banks of waterways. Succulent dark glossy leaves, segmented stems and white flowers with three petals. Trad forms thick dense mats smothering other vegetation.

Spread

Illegal waste dumping | Machinery
Soil translocation | Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Turkey rhubarb

Rumex sagittatus

An aggressive climber that forms thick dense mats covering small shrubs and ground covers. Turkey rhubarb has arrow shaped leaves and dark red stems. Seeds grow in large displays of colours ranging from green, to red to brown.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation
Vegetatively | Water | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.





Whisky grass

Andropogon virginicus

An erect grass, with stalks standing almost straight up in solid clumps up to 1m high. It stands out by its distinct growth habit and typical brown leaves. Often found along roadsides, disturbed sites and unmanaged pastures.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Fodder | Machinery
Soil translocation | Wind

Control methods



Manual removal Uproot the plant by hand or use a digging tool.



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.

Willows

Salix species

A deciduous tree found throughout the Shire located in gardens, roadsides, bushland and watercourses. Willows can create blockages, or 'chokes' that can significantly alter natural water flow. This disruption affects the health of local ecosystems.

Spread

Illegal waste dumping | Machinery
Soil translocation | Vegetatively | Water

Control methods



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.



Stem inject Drill holes around base, apply herbicide directly into them.





Winter cherry

Solanum pseudocapsicum

A small shrub often found in disturbed areas, with dark pointed leaves. Flowers are small and white which is typical of solanum plants, forms bright orangish red fruit. Stems become woody with age.

Spread

Animals | Birds | Illegal waste dumping
Machinery | Soil translocation

Control methods



Foliar spraying Spray the entire plant, ensuring all leaves are covered.



Cut and paint Cut the stem and directly apply herbicide onto it.

For more information

For identification and control measures for weeds within the Wingecarribee

Visit the WeedWise website weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ or download the free smartphone app through the app stores.



How to report suspected illegal waste dumping

Visit the website ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au/ or get in contact with council on 02 4868 0888. Or submit a Snap Send Solve via the app.



How to join Council's Bushcare volunteer program and help protect our native bushland

Visit the website wsc.nsw.gov.au/Environment/environment-forms/bushcare-and-rivercare-volunteer-application



Contact details

Wingecarribee Shire Council

☎ (02) 4868 0888

✉ Mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au

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Wingecarribee
SHIRE COUNCIL