

DRAFT

NORTHERN TERRITORY *WEEDS MANAGEMENT ACT 2001*

REVIEW OF DECLARED WEEDS – April 2003

Upon commencement of the *Weeds Management Act 2001*, weeds that were declared noxious under the repealed *Noxious Weeds Act 1962* became declared weeds under the new Act.

The following criteria were used for a plant to be declared noxious under the old Act:

- (a) it should constitute a significant threat to the productivity of land and water, flora and fauna resources, or in some cases, to human health;
- (b) means are available to kill the plant, feasibly eradicate it or limit its spread;
- (c) there is an ability and a firm intention to enforce control; and
- (c) a worthwhile benefit to the community can be anticipated from enforced control.

The current review should not only consider the plants that should have their status changed or new plants to be declared as weeds, but it should consider the criteria under which plants are declared as weeds.

There are many plants that meet criteria (a) and (b) in that they are a significant threat to productivity or the environment, and there are means to eradicate or control plants. However, criteria (c) and (d) are less easily met because there is often an inability or unwillingness to enforce control due to lack of experience, lack of personnel and lack of financial resources to carry enforcement to the letter of the law. Also, where weeds impact on different land uses, there may be little benefit from enforced control for the entire community. Moreover, when weeds occupy only small areas and can feasibly be eradicated, often the long-term nature of such work is overlooked and benefit of enforcement to the whole community is not clear.

It is for this reason that education is the key to effective implementation of the new Act: the long-term benefit from a long-term effort will be obtained by industries, clients and the Australian environment, well beyond our own lifetimes.

It is important to consider the land use situation or geographic area over which a declaration applies and perhaps there are other criteria that can be used to determine if a plant should or should not be declared as a weed. For example, it may be desirable to declare a plant as a weed solely for the purpose of legally controlling its movement, even though it may already occur in certain areas.

The *Weeds Management Act* was designed to involve the community in the decision making process about weeds. Therefore, during this review of declared weeds, it is proposed to consult industries, environmental groups, weed advisory committees and other government departments.

DECLARED WEEDS OF THE N.T.

Botanical name	Common name	Current weed status & part of the NT
Class A (to be eradicated)		
<i>Acacia catechu</i>	Cutch tree	A All of the Territory C
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Alligator weed	A " " C
<i>Barleria prionitis</i>	Barleria	A " " C
<i>Cabomba</i> spp	Fanwort	A " " C
<i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis</i>	Ornamental rubber vine	A " " C
<i>Datura ferox</i>	Longspine thornapple	A " " C
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Paterson's curse	A " " C
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water hyacinth	A " " C
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Olive Hymenache	A outside of Adelaide R., Mary R., Daly R., Finnis R., Wildman R., catchments.
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Physic nut	A All of the Territory C
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Common lantana	A " " C
<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i>	Lion's tail	A " " C
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African boxthorn	A " " C
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Parthenium weed	A " " C
<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	Chinee apple, Indian jujube	A " " C
<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Gamba grass	A Katherine Region & South C
<i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i>	Annual Mission grass	A Katherine Region & South C
Class B (growth and spread to be controlled)		
<i>Aerva javanica</i>	Kapok	B Finke R., Todd R., Hay R., Georgina, Barkly, Wiso, Mackay and Burt catchments.
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem	B " " C
<i>Datura innoxia</i>	Downy Thornapple	B " " C
<i>Martynia annua</i>	Devil's claw	B " " C
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Salvinia	B " " C
<i>Stachytarpheta</i> spp.	Snake weeds	B " " C
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Bathurst burr	B " " C
Class C (not to be introduced)		
<i>Acroptilon repens</i>	Creeping knapweed	C
<i>Ageratina riparia</i>	Mistflower	C
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Annual ragweed	C
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	Perennial ragweed	C
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel bush	C
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	Siam weed	C
<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	Rubber vine	C
<i>Datura</i> spp.	Thornapples	C
<i>Egeria densa</i>	Dense waterweed	C
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian pondweed	C
<i>Eriocereus martinii</i>	Harrisia cactus	C
<i>Hyptis capitata</i>	Knobweed	C
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Lagarosiphon	C
<i>Mimosa invisa</i>	Giant sensitive plant	C
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johnson grass	C
<i>Xanthium</i> spp.	Burrs	C
CLASS D (not to be spread by human means).		
<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i>	Star burr, goat's head	D All of the Territory C
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i>	Hyptis	D " " C

Botanical name	Common name	Current weed status & part of the NT
<i>Pennisetum pedicellatum</i>	Annual Mission grass	D " " C
<i>Senna alata</i>	Candle bush	D " " C
<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	Sicklepod	D " " C
<i>Senna occidentalis</i>	Coffee senna	D " " C
<i>Sida acuta</i>	Spinyhead sida	D " " C
<i>Sida cordifolia</i>	Flannel weed	D " " C
<i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Paddy's lucerne	D " " C
<i>Leucaena luecocephala</i>	Coffee Bush	D " " C
<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Gamba grass	D Finnis River, Adelaide River catchment, Mary and Daly River catchment (Class A/C elsewhere in Darwin Region)
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Olive hymenachne	D " " C
CLASS E (Species under an approved strategy).		
<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Prickly acacia	E All of the Territory C
<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Rubber bush	E " " C
<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Saffron thistle	E " " C
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Bellyache bush	E " " C
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Mimosa, giant sensitive plant	E " " C
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia	E " " C
<i>Pennisetum polystachion</i>	Mission grass	E " " C
<i>Prosopis limensis</i>	Mesquite, algaroba	E " " C
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Tamarisk, Athel pine	E " " C
<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>	Grader grass	E " " C
<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	Noogoora burr	E " " C

Potential weeds

Botanical name	Common name	
<i>Agave americana</i>	Century plant	
<i>Alternanthera dentata</i> var <i>rubiginosa</i>	Purple joy weed	
<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>	Creeping lantana	
<i>Opuntia</i> spp.	Prickly pears	
<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i>	Mother-in-law's tongue	
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>	Yellow oleander.	
<i>Ardisia humilis</i>	Ardisia	
<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	African Quince	
<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>	Singapore Daisy	