

Background to the Nursery Industry Association of Victoria

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Nursery Industry Association of Victoria

Date formed: 1903

Number of members: 330

Consists of 183 wholesale nurseries, 80 allied traders (e.g. pot manufacturers, media manufacturers, machinery sales), 54 retail nurseries and 9 affiliated members, those whose businesses receive some form of support or assistance. Included in these figures are 23 nurseries that trade as both wholesale and retail. About 12% of the nurseries in Victoria have 80% of the business.

The Nursery Industry Association of Victoria (NIAV) and the national body The Nursery Industry Association of Australia have been very keen to see a listing of weeds created and have been involved from the outset in discussions concerning weeds.

In Victoria weeds mean different things to different people in different areas. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee Enquiry into Weeds in Victoria in May 1998 received input from NIAV because the nursery industry is often mentioned as major culprit for propagating and selling weeds. Yet where do growers find information about weeds? Who is going to read this report which has valuable information?

NIAV can contact its members through member mailouts and through industry magazines. What the industry cannot do is contact non-members or hobby and backyard growers which constitute the

non-professional side of the industry. These growers are hardest to communicate with as they often sell at weekend markets which are nigh on impossible to regulate, control or police.

Late in 1998, at the request of the industry, all Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities were contacted and asked to supply a list of plants that they do not wish to see sold in their region. Some 98 plants were identified, and not surprisingly there was considerable duplication between certain regions (Table 1). Interestingly Port Phillip has not responded. The list is being circulated to all NIAV members.

Perhaps retail shops need to have lists of weeds exhibited to better educate members of the public to what is noxious, regionally prohibited, regionally controlled and, like the above mentioned list, not wanted in the region.

Most members of NIAV have been happy with the list circulated so will not send unwanted plants into those areas. But who can communicate with the non-professional growers? Should all growers be registered? Should weekend markets be regulated? Should local governments issue ratepayers with lists of plants that should not be purchased?

Many nursery owners spend time overseas selecting plants that may sell in Australia. After passing through the appropriate Quarantine Procedures these plants are propagated for at least two years to see how they perform in this environment.

Many of these plants have been prolific in their reproduction and as a consequence have been destroyed because of their invasive nature. It would be worthwhile surveying these nurseries to ascertain the plants which are believed to be potentially threatening.

Another problem with plants is how they are promoted. An example is *Salix matsudana*. When it was first released in Australia in the 1980s it was promoted as being the ideal farm tree because it would not spread. Thousands of these plants were purchased and planted. Guess what – it spreads! Who is to blame for this? Growers, promoters, the nurseries who sold them or were they wrongly identified in the first place?

In agricultural circles *Phalaris* is widely recommended as a pasture species that can be used as part of an overall strategy in salinity control. It can work extremely well, yet it can also escape onto roadsides and become uncontrollable. Some environmentalists are keen to remove phalaris from recommendations, but if you had a salt problem would you fix it, and worry about weed damage later?

Consistency is required when dealing with weeds. Growers have to know what is 'legal' to grow, retailers need to know what they cannot sell and purchasers need to know what they cannot plant. The non-professional growers need this information also.

The Nursery Industry is very happy to assist in the process of reducing the production and sale of 'garden thugs' wherever possible, providing sensible lists are produced. Naturally we would commend some regionally relevant promotion of what we wish the public not to grow and suggestions of alternatives, but we also recognise this is the tip of the iceberg as far as actual replacement strategies for currently affect areas.

Table 1. Weeds and area listing.

| Species | Mallee | Wimmera | Glenelg | North Central | Corangamite | Goulburn | Port Phillip | North East | East Gippsland | West Gippsland |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------------|-------------|----------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Agapanthus <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> | | # | | | | | | | # | |
| Alligator weed <i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> | | | | | | # | | | | |
| Aloe <i>Aloe</i> spp. | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Arrowhead <i>Sagittaria graminea</i> | | | | | | # | | | | |
| Asparagus fern <i>Asparagus scandens</i> | | | | | | | | | | # |
| Athel pine <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Banana passionfruit <i>Passiflora mollissima</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Belladonna lily <i>Amaryllis belladonna</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Berry-flower heath <i>Erica baccans</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Blue butterfly bush/blue psoralea <i>Psoralea pinnata</i> | | | # | | | | | | | # |
| Blue periwinkle <i>Vinca major</i> | # | # | # | | # | # | | | | |
| Blue psoralea/blue butterfly bush <i>Psoralea pinnata</i> | | | # | | | | | | | # |
| Bluebell creeper <i>Sollya heterophylla</i> | # | # | # | | # | | | # | | # |
| Boneseed <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>monilifera</i> | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Bracelet honey-myrtle <i>Melaleuca armillaris</i> | | | # | | # | | | | | |
| Bridal creeper <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> | # | # | # | | # | | | # | | # |
| Bulbil watsonia/wild watsonia <i>Watsonia meriana</i> cv. <i>bulbillifera</i> | # | | | | | | | | | # |
| Cactus <i>Opuntia</i> spp. | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Cape broom/Montpellier broom <i>Genista monspessulana</i> | # | # | # | # | | | | # | # | # |
| Cape ivy <i>Delairea odorata</i> | # | | | | | | | | | # |
| Cape tulip <i>Homeria flaccida</i> (syn. <i>Homeria breyniana</i>) | | | | | | | | | | # |
| Cape wattle <i>Paraserianthes lophantha</i> | # | # | | | | | | | | |
| Cedar wattle <i>Acacia alata</i> | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Century plant <i>Agave americana</i> | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Cestrum <i>Cestrum</i> spp. | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Coastal tea tree <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> | | | # | | # | | | | | |
| Coastal wattle <i>Acacia lonifolia</i> var. <i>sophorae</i> | | | # | | | | | | | |
| Cootamundra wattle <i>Acacia baileyana</i> | # | # | # | # | | # | | # | | |
| Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp. | # | | | | | | | # | # | # |
| Crack willow <i>Salix</i> × <i>rubens</i> | | | | | | | | # | | |
| Desert ash <i>Fraxinus rotundifolia</i> | | | | | | # | | | | |
| Dolichos pea <i>Dipogon lignosus</i> | | | | | # | | | | | |
| Early black wattle/green wattle <i>Acacia decurrnes</i> | # | # | # | | | | | | | |
| English broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> | | # | | | | | | # | # | # |
| English ivy/ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> | | | | | # | | | # | | # |
| Eulalia <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> | | | | | | | | # | | |
| Flax-leaved broom <i>Genista linifolia</i> | # | # | | | | | | | | # |
| Flinders Ranges wattle <i>Acacia iteaphylla</i> | # | | | # | | | | | | |
| Foxtail grass | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Freesia <i>Freesia leichtlinii</i> | # | | | | | | | # | | |
| Gazania <i>Gazania linearis</i> | | | | # | | | | | | |
| Golden wreath wattle <i>Acacia saligna</i> | # | # | | | | | | | | |
| Green wattle/early black wattle <i>Acacia decurrnes</i> | # | # | # | # | | | | | | |
| Harlequin flower <i>Sparaxis bulbifera</i> | | | # | | | | | | | |
| Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | # | # | | | | | | # | | |
| Himalayan honeysuckle <i>Leycesteria formosa</i> | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera</i> spp. | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Ivy/English ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> | | | | | # | | | | # | # |

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Table 1. Weeds and area listing. .../continued

| Species | Mallee | Wimmera | Glenelg | North Central | Corangamite | Goulburn | Port Phillip | North East | East Gippsland | West Gippsland |
|--|--------|---------|---------|---------------|-------------|----------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Japanese honeysuckle <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Lantana <i>Lantana</i> spp. | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Large-flower wood sorrel <i>Oxalis purpurea</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Lavender paperbark <i>Melaleuca nesophila</i> | | | # | | | | | | | |
| Lombardy poplar <i>Populus nigra</i> var. <i>italica</i> | | | | | | | | # | | |
| Mediterranean loosestrife <i>Lythrum junceum</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Montbretia <i>Crocasmia</i> × <i>crocosmiiflora</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Monterey pine <i>Pinus radiata</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Montpellier broom/cape broom <i>Genista monspessulana</i> | | # | # | # | | | | # | # | # |
| Mount Morgan wattle <i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i> | | | | # | | | | | | |
| <i>Myrsiphyllum</i> (now <i>Asparagus</i> spp.) | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Myrtle-leaf milkwort <i>Polygala myrtifolia</i> | | | # | | # | | | | | |
| New Zealand mirror bush <i>Coprosma repens</i> | | # | # | | # | | | | | |
| Olive <i>Olea europaea</i> | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Orange firethorn <i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i> | | | | | | | | # | | |
| <i>Ozmanthus heterophyllus</i> | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Pampas grass <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> | | # | # | # | # | | | # | | # |
| Paraguayan nightshade <i>Solanum rantonnetti</i> | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Peppercorn tree <i>Schinus molle</i> | | | | | | | # | # | # | |
| <i>Polygala grandiflora</i> | | | | | | | | | # | |
| Portuguese laurel <i>Prunus lusitanica</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Rosemary grevillea <i>Grevillea rosmarinifolia</i> | | | # | | | | | | | |
| Sallow wattle <i>Acacia longifolia</i> var. <i>longifolia</i> | | | # | # | | | | # | | |
| Shasta daisy <i>Leucanthemum maximum</i> | | | # | | | | | | | |
| Smooth angophora <i>Angophora costata</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Soursob <i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> | | # | | | | | | | | # |
| Spanish heath <i>Erica lusitanica</i> | | | # | # | # | | | | | # |
| Strawberry tree <i>Arbutus unedo</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Swamp foxtail grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Sweet hakea <i>Hakea drupacea</i> (syn. <i>Hakea suaveolens</i>) | | # | # | | | | | | | |
| Sweet pittosporum <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> N.B. this is indigenous to some areas, but an invasive weed in others | | # | # | | # | | | | | # |
| Suaveolens | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Sycamore maple <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Tagasaste/tree lucerne <i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i> | | | | # | | | | # | | # |
| Tasmanian laurel | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Tree lucerne/tagasaste <i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i> | | | | # | | | | # | | # |
| Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> | # | # | | | | | | | | |
| Wandering Jew <i>Tradescantia albiflora</i> | | # | # | | | | # | # | | |
| Water forget-me-not <i>Myosotis caespitosa</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Weeping willow <i>Salix babylonica</i> | | # | | | | | | # | | |
| White arum lily <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| White Poplar <i>Populus alba</i> | | # | | | | | | # | | |
| White Spanish broom <i>Cytisus multiflorus</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Wild watsonia/bulbil watsonia <i>Watsonia meriana</i> cv. <i>bulbillifera</i> | | # | | | | | | | | # |
| Willow-leaf hakea <i>Hakea salicifolia</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Willows (all species) <i>Salix</i> spp. | | | | | | | # | | | |
| Willows that propagate by seed | # | | | | | | | | | |
| Wood forget-me-not <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i> | | # | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow waterlily <i>Nymphaea mexicana</i> | | | | | | | # | | | |