

Future and expanding weeds

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There are many new and emerging weeds in Victoria. These are just a few:

Trees

Arbutus unedo, strawberry tree – found around Creswick and elsewhere invading under pine plantations. Fruit spread by animals.

Psoralea pinnata, blue psoralea – found in south west Victoria in plantation and coastal areas and along Gippsland roadsides.

Shrubs

Calluna vulgaris, heather or ling – not recorded as naturalized in Victoria, but highly invasive in New Zealand's high country on the North Island.

Cytisus multiflorus, white Spanish broom – infestation at St. George's Lake near Creswick.

Erica baccans, apple-berry heath – Found at Arthur's Seat State Park and around Red Hill on the Mornington Peninsula, and at Mt. Cannibal in South Gippsland.

Leonotis leonurus, lion's tail – invading coastal New South Wales, growing at Somers foreshore in Victoria, banned in Western Australia.

Leycesteria formosa, Himalayan honeysuckle – has invaded large areas at the base of Mt. Buffalo, also in the Dandenongs, Otways, Strezlecki Ranges etc. Dispersed by birds and deer, possibly foxes. Each fruit contains over 60 seeds.

Grasses

Cortaderia spp., pampas grass – expanding in many areas.

Nassella neesiana, Chilean needle grass – west of Melbourne and elsewhere.

Nassella tenuissima, Mexican feather grass – sold earlier in 1999 at two nurseries at Mt. Macedon, Victoria. All plants removed by quarantine but eight plants sold and unaccounted for. Potential to be worse than serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*).

Climbers and creepers

Anredera cordifolia, Madeira vine – big weed in New South Wales and Queensland. In Melbourne gardens. Invading along the Yarra River at Abbotsford and along Werribee River, Werribee. Has potato-like tubers dropped with garden waste.

Araujia sericifera, moth vine, moth plant, white bladder-flower, kapok etc. – suburban gardens around Melbourne.

Asparagus densiflorus, asparagus fern – found invading on the New South Wales coast.

Asparagus scandens, asparagus creeper – found at Somers foreshore in Victoria and coastal areas. Closely related to and grows in association with bridal creeper (*A. asparagoides*).

Clematis vitalba, old man's beard, travellers joy – big weed in New Zealand, recorded in suburban Melbourne, invading in Tasmania.

Galium aparine, cleavers, bedstraw – considered to be one of the world's worst weeds. Widespread in Victoria. Smothers indigenous vegetation. Common in gardens as a weed. Seeds stick like velcro.

Senecio angulatus, climbing groundsel – often confused with another South African invasive cape ivy, *Delairea odorata*. Invading coastal areas.

Herbs

Alstroemeria aurea, alstroemeria or Peruvian lily – invading near Bogong Village below Falls Creek.

Chasmanthe floribunda, African corn flag – often confused with watsonia, but flowers earlier than watsonia. Increasingly common in coastal areas and along roadsides.

Crassula multicava, crassula – succulent increasingly common particularly in coastal areas.

Equisetum spp., horsetail – one of the world's worst weeds and a Weed of National Significance in Australia. Still sold legally in Victoria despite being banned in all other States. Infestation near Castlemaine.

Myosotis sylvatica, forget-me-not – widespread particularly in coastal areas. Seeds stick like velcro.

Watsonia spp., watsonia – bulbil watsonia widespread, others expanding. Bulbil watsonia has small bulbils spread along roadsides by slashers and other maintenance equipment.

Aquatics

Alternanthera philoxeroides, alligator weed – Weed of National Significance in Australia. Grown accidentally around Melbourne as a cooking plant. Many infestations found in Victoria, many now treated.

Eichhornia crassipes Water hyacinth – floating plant banned throughout Australia. Found recently at Melbourne nursery.