

**THE COUNCIL
OF THE
SHIRE OF BOURKE**

Bourke Shire Council is the Local Government body empowered with the control and eradication of noxious weeds within the Councils area both urban and rural.

The Council is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on land under its jurisdiction, on roadsides and vacant Crown Land through special grants. It is also responsible for ensuring that all owner/occupiers of private land fulfil their obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act. This responsibility entails property inspections, the giving of advice and directions and the implementation of legal action if required.



MESQUITE



ATHEL PINE



SPINY BURR GRASS



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Full details of major noxious weeds are given
in Primfacts publications.

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NOXIOUS weeds guide

The Council of the Shire of Bourke

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**Any landholder having a weed problem
should contact their local Weeds Officer**



This information is an initiative by
The Council of the Shire of Bourke
in helping you to recognise, control
and eradicate noxious weeds.



BOURKE



Prickly Acacia



Alligator Weed



Parthenium Weed

OBLIGATIONS & PENALTIES

Any person(s) who owns, leases, rents, has control, or use of the land is the "Occupier", and, as such must control noxious weeds on that land as required under the control category specified in relation to the weed concerned.

In situations such as watercourses, unfenced roads or laneways, occupiers should contact the local control authority (Council) to determine their responsibilities under the Noxious Weed Act, 1993. Occupiers of land must comply with a weed control notice.

Failure to do so may result in a maximum fine of 100 penalty points (currently \$11,000).

THE COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF BOURKE DECLARED NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Noxious weeds under the new Act of 1993, updated 7 March 2006. The action required to be taken under this Act to control a noxious weed for which a particular control category is specified is the action set out in relation to that control category.

Class 1

Class 1 noxious weeds are plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment and are not present in the State only to a limited extent.

Anchored water hyacinth	(<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>)
Black knapweed	(<i>Centaurea nigra</i>)
Broomrapes	(<i>Orobancha</i> spp.)
Chinese violet	(<i>Asystasia gangetica</i> subspecies <i>micrantha</i>)
East Indian hygrophila	(<i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>)
Eurasian water milfoil	(<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>)
Hawkweed	(<i>Hieracium</i> spp.)
Horsetail	(<i>Equisetum</i> spp.)
Hymenachne	(<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>)
Karoo thorn	(<i>Acacia karroo</i>)
Kochia	(<i>Bassia scoparia</i>)
Lagarosiphon	(<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>)
Mexican feather grass	(<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>)
Miconia	(<i>Miconia</i> spp.)
Mimosa	(<i>Mimosa pigra</i>)
Parthenium weed	(<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>)
Pond apple	(<i>Annona glabra</i>)
Prickly acacia	(<i>Acacia nilotica</i>)
Rubber vine	(<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>)
Senegal tea plant	(<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>)
Siam weed	(<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>)
Spotted knapweed	(<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>)
Water caltrop	(<i>Trapa</i> spp.)
Water lettuce	(<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>)
Water soldier	(<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>)
Witchweed	(<i>Striga</i> spp.)

Class 2

Class 2 noxious weeds are plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of a region to which the order applies and are not present in the region or are present only to a limited extent.

Aligator weed	(<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>)
Mesquite	(<i>Prosopis</i> spp.)
Parkinsonia	(<i>Parkinsonia aculeate</i>)
Salvinia	(<i>Salvinia molesta</i>)
Water hyacinth	(<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>)

Note: A noxious weed that is classified as a **CLASS 1, 2 or 5** noxious weed is referred to in the ACT as a notifiable weed and must be reported to your Local Control Authority. (BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL)

Class 3

Class 3 noxious weeds are plants that pose a serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area to which an order applies, are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

Columbus grass	(<i>Sorghum x almum</i>)
Green cestrum	(<i>Cestrum parqui</i>)
Johnson grass	(<i>Sorghum halepense</i>)

Class 4

Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>
Bathurst/Noogoora/Californian/Cockle burr	(<i>Xanthium</i> spp.)
Blackberry	(<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> aggregate spp.)
Chilean needle grass	(<i>Nassella neesiana</i>)
Galvanised burr	(<i>Sclerolaena birchii</i>)
Golden dodder	(<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>)
Harrisia cactus	(<i>Harrisia</i> species)
Prickly pear	(<i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp.)
Prickly pear	(<i>Opuntia</i> species except <i>O. ficusindica</i>)
Rhus tree	(<i>Toxicodendron succedaneum</i>)
Serrated tussock	(<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>)
Spiny burrgrass	(<i>Cenchrus incertus and longispinus</i>)

Class 5

Class 5 noxious weeds are plants that are likely, by their sale or the sale of their seeds or movement within the State or an area of the State, to spread in the State or outside the State.

Athel pine	(<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>)
Bridal creeper	(<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>)
Cabomba	(<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>)
Clockweed	(<i>Gaura parviflora</i>)
Dodder	(<i>Cuscuta</i> spp.)
Golden thistle	(<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>)
Lantana	(<i>Lantana</i> spp.)
Mexican poppy	(<i>Argemone Mexicana</i>)
Mossman River grass	(<i>Cenchrus echinatus</i>)
Onion grass	(<i>Ramulea</i> spp.)
Sagittaria	(<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>)

WHAT IS A NOXIOUS WEED?

Although there are many plants which could be classed as weeds only those plants which have a detrimental effect or cause serious economic loss to agriculture or the environment (*providing there is a reasonable and enforceable means of control and its reasonable and practical for the Council to enforce control*) are considered as candidates for declaration as noxious weeds.

There are five Class's for noxious weeds:

Class 1 - State Prohibited Weeds

Class 2 - Regionally Prohibited Weeds

Class 3 - Regionally Controlled Weeds

Class 4 - Locally Controlled Weeds

Class 5 - Restricted Weeds

Class 1

The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant.

Class 2

The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant.

Class 3

The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

Class 4

The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority *Bourke Shire Council* and the plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

METHODS OF WEED CONTROL

The aim of **weed control** is to reduce the amount of weed seed in the soil and prevent the replenishment of the seed store by preventing weed growth and removing plant material which may allow the weed to propagate. Technology advancement during the past 50 years has added a new facet to weed control. This is through the use of herbicides. Herbicides are not necessarily the answer to weed problems but can be in many cases the cheapest and easiest way to control weeds. For the most efficient form of weed control it is usual to adopt control strategies which include a combination of some of the following, herbicides, biological control agents, encouraging competitive plant growth, pulling/grubbing, slashing and ploughing.

NOTE: *There are circumstances where the use of some of these methods can be detrimental to efficient weed control.*

The majority of weeds were introduced from other countries. Some arrived by accident while others were brought in for various reasons such as food, natural medicines or for their aesthetic values. Their natural enemies which kept them under control in their native countries were not present in Australia and as a consequence their spread has been unrestricted.

Much work has been done on the introduction of biological control agents for Blackberry, Paterson's Curse, St John's Wort and Parthenium Weed to name a few. In recent years the introduction of feral goats to control bush type weeds such as Blackberry has been most successful. Another form of weed control is basically mechanical and can be used in conjunction with chemical control. These include slashing, ploughing, fallowing, hand weeding and pulling. Rarely does one method effect control on its own.



RHUS TREE

(*Toxicodendron succedaneum*)

A deciduous tree to 8 metres tall. Leaves are pinnate divided into 9 to 15 leaflets arranged in pairs and a single leaflet at the tip, turning brilliant scarlet or crimson in autumn. Flowers are small creamy-white within new Spring leaves. Fruit is pale brown, flattened, papery in appearance and hang in bunches during autumn and winter. It can cause painful allergic reactions between 12 hours and 7 days after contact.

Rhus causes dermatitis, beginning with a rash, redness itching and blisters where the skin has touched the plant. Often accompanied by swelling of face, arms and legs. These symptoms usually last 7-10 days.



MESQUITE

(*Prosopis* spp.)

A deciduous perennial shrub with some species growing to and over 3 metres tall.

The multi-stemmed leaves are feathery in appearance with 2 robust spines at the base. It carries small greenish yellow flowers on short stalks and produces bunches of seedpods during summer. The stem is woody, brown to black. This plant reproduces by seeds and suckers.



PARTHENIUM WEED

(*Parthenium hysterophorus*)

This plant grows up to 1.5 metres tall. It has creamy-white flowers that grow in clusters, also deeply lobed pale green leaves which branch alternately on stems and are covered with soft, fine hair. It can cause respiratory problems and severe dermatitis in humans and animals. Livestock carrying capacity is reduced. It is found in neglected areas around yards and buildings, roadsides, also in over stocked areas. It is spread by seed through hay and grain, contaminated vehicles and machinery.



MOTHER-OF-MILLIONS

(*Bryophyllum delagoense*)

Mother-of-Millions are escaped ornamental plants that are highly toxic to stock and humans. They are an erect, smooth, fleshy, succulent plant growing to 1 metre or more in height. They have tall flower spikes with clusters of bell-shaped flowers. They produce small planlets along the edges of leaves. Flowers are orange-red, in a cluster at the top of the stem.



JOHNSON GRASS

(*Sorghum halepense*)

A summer growing perennial sorghum up to 2 metres tall. Has long leaves with prominent white midrib and an open seedhead. Seeds are usually dark brown or black when mature and unlike forage sorghum, has rhizomes (root segments).

Johnson Grass like all sorghums can be toxic to livestock especially during periods of new growth. It is a safety hazard along roadsides restricting vision and is a pollen contaminant of sorghum and other crops.



ATHEL PINE

(*Tamarix aphylla*)

Athel pine is a spreading tree to 15 metres with pendulous, jointed branches and can be up to 1 metre in diameter. The minute, dull green leaves superficially resemble pine tree 'needles', however it is a flowering plant. Its small flowers are pinkish-white without stalks, growing on 30-40mm long spikes from the end of the previous year's branches. The fruit is bell shaped with a hairy tuft containing many small cylindrical seeds. It concentrates salt, which is excreted by its leaves. It consumes water at a much greater rate than native plants.



PRICKLY ACACIA

(*Acacia nilotica*)

A shrub or small tree growing between 7 to 9 metres high. It regenerates from seed but can regrow from a cut stump. The flowers are bright yellow rounded, clustered and fluffy. The seed pods are greyish-green, soft hairy and flattened, 6-25 centimetres long and 1-1.5 centimetres wide.

The seeds are dispersed mainly by water, man and cattle. The seeds, due to their exterior being hard, can lay dormant in the soil for long periods.

The long spines and dense thickets, it remains impenetrable to stock. The thickets are a major problem to stock handling and a hazard to dogs with the thorns on the ground.



COMMON PEST PEAR

(*Opuntia stricta*)

This plant is a low growing green cactus up to 1.5 metres tall and made up of flattened segments or pads 10-30 centimetres long and 7-20 centimetres across. Leaves measuring 3-4 millimetres long are rarely seen. Areoles have a cluster of small brownish woolly hairs and up to 11 spines 10-50 mm long. Two year old plants have yellow flowers during spring producing green fruit in summer. The 50 mm long fruit ripens deep purple. Plant segments and fruit become detached and spread by animals and water. The fruit is palatable and seeds with 20 year life expectancy are readily spread by birds.



SPINY BURR GRASS

(*Cenchrus incertus*)

Erect and spreading annual grass to 60 centimetres high. Forms a spike like panicle 3 to 8 centimetres long consisting of up to forty spiny burrs. Grows most readily on disturbed sandy soil. It is a noxious weed because of its obnoxious burrs which are difficult to extract from skin and clothes. Can cause lameness in dogs and sheep.



BATHURST BURR

(*Xanthium* spp.)

A robust summer growing annual plant usually found on creekbeds, riverflats or moist flood prone areas. The plant can invade pastures and cultivation, attains a height of 1 metre. Bathurst Burrs' hooked spines make it well adaptable for dispersal and can also be a major source of vegetable fault in wool therefore reducing its value.



NOOGOORA BURR

(*Xanthium* spp.)

A robust summer growing annual plant usually found on creekbeds, river flats or moist flood prone areas. The plant can invade pastures and cultivation, attains a height of 2 metres with spreading branches to cover an area of 2 metres. The alternate broad lobed leaves are on coarse ribbed branches. The fruit ripens into a spiny burr 2 centimetres long densely beset with hooked spines at end.

The species is toxic to livestock and can cause dermatitis and mechanical injury to both humans and livestock.



AFRICAN BOXTHORN

(*Lycium ferocissimum*)

A tall erect, thorny perennial shrub, often impenetrable thickets. Branches are stout, sometimes, drooping and end in a strong sharp spine. Flowers are cream streaked with lilac. Berries are small, bright orange, succulent and globular. The bushes harbour vermin such as rabbits and the berries are host for fruit fly and other insects.



SALVINIA

(*Salvinia molesta*)

An aquatic plant declared noxious throughout New South Wales. A free floating fern with slender stems, floating leaves and a root like structure. Spreads vegetatively by fragmentation and grows rapidly in warm conditions when it can double in mass in 2-3 days.

Occurs on still and slowly flowing water, can smother large areas of water causing problems to other plants and aquatic animals, blocking irrigation equipment and pumping apparatus and reducing the use of water ways for recreation and transport.



WATER LETTUCE

(*Pistia stratiotes*)

A free floating, perennial, aquatic plant. The plant spreads by producing under water stems (stolons) which form daughter plants. Spread is very rapid. The leaves are a distinctive pale yellow green, resembling fleshy lettuce leaves.

Seeds are produced when plants are crowded. Dense swards can deoxygenate water resulting in fish kills, and damage to the ecosystem.



WATER HYACINTH

(*Eichhornia crassipes*)

A free-floating aquatic plant growing in deep or shallow water and in mud. Spreads vegetatively by fragmentation. One plant in one season can spread to occupy about 300 hectares. Easily recognised by its bright shiny pale green fleshy leaves on swollen bladder like stems. Attractive mauve flowers appear in Summer and its seeds may lay dormant for many years before germinating.

The plant threatens water use generally. Infestations may make water unfit for domestic and stock use, choke irrigation systems, block drainage lines, hinder navigation and seriously interfere with wildlife.



CABOMBA

(*Cabomba* spp.)

A submersed perennial herb rooted in bottom mud and can free float in deep water and reproducing from segments. Dispersal is most common with stem fragments taking root easily.

The leaves are different underwater as to above. The submerged leaves are arranged in whorls and fan shaped also covered in a gelatinous coating. The floating are narrow-elliptical and some forked at one end, approx 2 centimetres long. The flowers are white to cream with a pink tinge at tip, yellow spots at the base of petals, 2 centimetres wide, short stalks, and are found on water surface. Fruit is bottle shaped and leathery, contains 3 seeds each.



LAGAROSIPHON

(*Largosiphon major*)

A submersed water weed of temperate regions. Spread by rhizomes and seed. Dense masses of interwoven under water stems are produced during summer. Can deoxygenate water resulting in fish kills and death of other aquatic life. It prefers a water depth of between 20 centimetres and 5 metres. Characterised by leaves spiralling around the stem.



ALLIGATOR WEED

(*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)

This aquatic weed, introduced from South America, forms dense floating mats with masses of interwoven hollow stems in waterways or swampy areas. It can also live on land and spread 15 metres onto waterways. The green leaves are elongated and opposite on the stems. The solitary flowers are white. The plant is readily spread by water, birds, in hay and turf, in mud on earth moving machinery and vehicles, or by livestock



SENEGAL TEA PLANT

(*Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*)

This aquatic weed, introduced from South America, is an erect perennial invading still or slow waters or marshes. It grows from damp or wet soil and the hollow stems float as mats on water. Leaves are elliptic shape, dark green and 11 centimetres long and 3 centimetres in diameter. The plant is spread by seeds, roots or stems which either float in water or move by vehicles and animals.



CHILEAN NEEDLEGRASS

(*Nassella neesiana*, formerly *Stipa neesiana*)

This plants success is mainly due to a large long-lived reserve of viable seed in the seed soil bank. This seed bank enables it to re-establish even the adult plant has been killed. It is unpalatable to stock if in flower and can penetrate sheeps' wool to the skin and also their eyes. It can produce flowers in its first season.

This weed can be recognised by the two distinctive bends in the stem. Can be spread by animals, humans and machinery. Seeds mainly in autumn and spring.



GREEN CESTRUM

(*Cestrum parqui*)

A straggling perennial shrub 2 to 3 metres tall. May have one or more green brittle stems. Leaves are shiny green to 10 centimetres long, which when crushed have a foul smell. Flowers, from late Spring to Autumn, are yellow trumpet shaped clusters (may have greenish tinge) approximately 2.5 centimetres long at the end of the branches. Have an unpleasant smell during the day but quite sweet in the evening. The fruit, arranged in clusters are shiny black and egg shaped berries.

All parts of the plant are poisonous to livestock particularly cattle and can be toxic to humans.



PARKINSONIA

(*Parkinsonia aculeata*)

Hairless shrub or tree of irregular habit, 2-10 metres high, with slender, often drooping, zig-zag branches. Leaves with a short, spine tipped stalk, the leaf 'branches' 20-40 centimetres long, flattened, with numerous small linear or oblong leaflets along each edge. Flowers yellow, 5 petalled, fragrant, each on a slender drooping stalk. Fruit a pod, 5-15 centimetres long, pencil shaped, constricted between the oblong seeds. Flowering summer-early autumn.



RUBBER VINE

(*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)

Rubber vine is a vigorous climber with twining whip like shoots. It can grow 2 metres unsupported or up to 30 metres when it entwines around trees. Stems and leaves exude a milky sap. The leaves are glossy green, smooth and can be up to 6 to 10 cm long. The plant tends to be deciduous and poisonous to stock. Rubber vine impacts on pastoral and conservation areas of north eastern Australia and must be kept out of the County area.



DODDER

(*Cuscuta* spp.)

Dodders are annual, leafless flowering plants living as parasites on host plants attached by suckers. They are reliant on the host plant for nutrient, therefore reducing the yield of the crop.

The stems are threadlike, usually bright yellow. The flowers are bell shaped in clusters along the stems and are mainly cream-white in appearance. Dodder is spread by the harvesting with the host crop, flooding and can pass through animals in viable conditions.