



Weeds in Kentish

Mount Roland

Rivercare

Catchment Inc.



Logo by
Luke
Mineur,
Sheffield

This leaflet highlights new and emerging weeds in Kentish. Please keep this to help identify and find out how to manage them.

Mt Roland Rivercare Catchment Inc. (MRRCI)

We are a group of people with an enduring interest in the land and waterways around Mt Roland. Since 1999 this award winning not-for-profit group has been focussed on

- restoring river water quality in the Dasher, Don and Minnow Rivers
- educating the community with field days, weed working bees and via our website
- monitoring and controlling weed infestations in Kentish, especially around Mt Roland.

We have an active and ongoing partnership agreement with the Kentish Council.

In 2020 we are engaged in **weed management** around Mt Roland; clean-up of **illegal dumping** in the Minnow catchment; and Community Engagement Plans to monitor and control **feral animals** in known hotspot areas especially around Mt Roland.

For more information see www.rivercare.org.au/

If you are interested in joining us in our work or on our committee, please contact the Secretary at secretary@rivercare.org.au

You can e-mail a photo of your weeds for assistance in identification.



English Ivy

(*Hedera helix*) is a dense woody climbing vine with glossy dark leaves, which can also be

variegated. It spreads by seeds, and the stems taking root, and is often introduced to forest areas by the dumping of garden waste. **All parts of ivy are poisonous.** Ivy can colonise forest areas, and strangle large trees. Hand pull ensuring to remove all root material. Larger plants can be cut and painted with herbicide.



California stink-weed

(*Navarettia squarrosa*) is an emerging weed of concern in Kentish. It occurs on gravelly areas and roadsides. Small purple, tubular flowers begin in spring and continue through to early autumn in Tasmania.

The plant has a very strong smell (another common name is skunk-weed), and often can be located by this smell, before the plant is seen. Each seed head can contain at least 200 seeds, with dispersal taking place by wind, water, fauna, and vehicles. Significant spread in the Beulah and Lower

Beulah areas, spreading to other locations across Kentish.

Use gloves to hand-pull the weed as it has spines and the smell is very hard to remove from hands. Larger infestations may require treatment with herbicide.



Gopher spurge (*Euphorbia lathyris*) is an environmental weed which can be particularly troublesome in riparian areas, and threatens to dominate natural forest areas.

The plant is poisonous to humans and livestock. The plants have milky sap which can cause dermatitis and irritation to skin when contact is made, and particularly harmful if the sap gets

into the eyes, which requires seeking urgent medical attention. Exposure to the sap has in extreme cases led to blindness.

Each plant can produce over 50 seeds, and the species can spread rapidly (they 'explode'), particularly via animal and vehicle vectors.

Use gloves and safety glasses when hand-pulling plants, and monitor for re-occurrence of plants. The species is very persistent. Large infestations may require the use of herbicide.

There are six Euphorbia weed species in Tasmania, many of which are found in Kentish. When removing all of the Euphorbia's care must be exercised, as the sap is toxic in all of them.



Elisha's tears

(*Leycesteria formosa*) grows to 3-5 m in height, as well as horizontally. The hollow stems are similar to bamboo. It can invade both disturbed and undisturbed areas, and form very large colonies, particularly in gullies, waterways, and out-compete native flora and fauna. Birds eat and spread the seeds, with dispersal

also by water, wind, fauna, vehicles, and dumping contaminated soil and garden waste. It can also spread by lower stems sprouting roots.

Elisha's tears is very difficult to remove once established. It is a '**Declared Weed**' in Tasmania. Consult the <https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/elishas-tears/elishas-tears-herbicides-for-control>



Montbretia (*Crocosmia X crocosmiflora*) grows from bulbs, and has short-lived foliage which grows each year. The flowers form in clusters of 4-20 flowers on branches approximately 15-30 cm long,. Flowering usually occurs in summer to autumn, though in warmer years it can flower earlier. Plants spread underground from rhizomes, seed

dispersal, and by dumping garden waste and soil. The plant can form dense infestations, and can become very invasive along waterways and damp courses. It can degrade riparian areas, by out-competing native species, and interfere with their germination.

The plants can be manually removed or dug out, being careful to remove all of the bulbs and corms. In particularly dense infestations, herbicide may be required to eradicate the plants.



Twiggy mullein

(*Verbascum virgatum*)

occurs on sites that have been disturbed, such as road-sides, pastures and harvested plantations, and will also invade native forest and riparian areas. The species has a toothed leaf rosette in the first year, and flowers and seed in the second year.

Twiggy mullein is very easy to identify when flowering, as the flower head can reach 1-2 m in

height.

The seeds are very fine, and easily dispersed by wind, vehicles and clothing/shoes. Each seed capsule can contain up to 600 seeds, with each plant capable of producing more than 12,000 seeds. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for decades.

Remove the rosettes by 'chipping' with a hoe, or hand pull mature plants before seeding occurs.



Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) can grow to almost 3 m in height, and looks similar to carrot leaves. It has an unpleasant smell, and **all parts of the plant are extremely poisonous to humans and livestock.** Hemlock grows along roadsides and disturbed sites, and is present in a growing number of sites within plantations in the Paradise, and Beulah areas. The plant produces thousands of tiny seeds in autumn, and is easily spread by vehicles, fauna and water. Isolated plants may be hand-pulled making sure to wear **gloves, face mask, and protective eye wear.** **For larger infestation it is advisable to attain professional assistance to treat this weed, due to its toxicity.**



Horehound

(*Marrubium vulgare*) grows to a height of approximately 80 cm with up to 200 flowering stems occurring.

Infestations occur along road sides, on neglected pasture land, stock yards, disturbed or open bushland, and around old buildings. The plant has clusters of small white flowers

which dry to form a spiny burr. The burrs can contaminate the fleeces of livestock, leading to significant economic loss. Horehound seeds usually germinate following rain in autumn, although seeding can also take place in winter and spring. The burrs full of seeds spread on wool, fur, tyres, and by water. Horses eat the burrs and spread the weed through their faeces. One plant can produce more than 20,000 seeds per annum, and the seeds can be viable for 7-10 years.

Horehound is a **‘Declared Weed’** in Tasmania.

Isolated plants can be hand-pulled, and slightly larger infestations treated with herbicide.

Refer to the management guide for treatment which can be found at

https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Horehound_CRC_bp mg.pdf

Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is a large shrub or small tree with prickly leaves, and red berries.

The berries mature in autumn, and are poisonous if consumed. If uncontained, holly can form dense thickets and hedges, which can replace or impact on native species.

Holly is still available for purchase in some nurseries, despite the species being listed for inclusion in the **‘Declared Weeds’** index in the near future.

The berries are eaten by birds and possibly other animals, which assist in spreading the weed.

Information on treatment of holly can be found at the DPIWWE website:

<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/holly>



English broom

(*Cytisus scoparius*) is a perennial shrub which grows up to 3 m in height. It is an invader of pastures, native and plantation forests, and road sides.

Broom can form

dense thickets which impact on native species, and provides habitat for introduced species.

Flowering is usually from October to December, although the flowering season can occur throughout the year when climatic conditions are amenable.

Each seed pod contains many seeds, which are ejected explosively up to 3 m in distance. Seeds can be ingested by animals such as horses, which can assist in the spread of the weed. Seeds are also spread by vehicles, movement of seed infected soil, and bush walkers.

Infestations of English broom can increase the frequency of fire events, and alter soil chemistry.

Isolated small plants can be hand-pulled, while with larger plants the stems can be cut close to the ground and painted with herbicide.

English broom is a '**Declared Weed**' in Tasmania, and further information on eradication and management can be found in the Management Plan which is available at

https://dpiwta.tas.gov.au/Documents/English-broom_WMP_2011.pdf

Montpellier broom (*Genista monspessulana*) is an evergreen shrub which can reach 3 m in height. It's behavior and risks are similar to English Broom. Flowering is in late winter, with a second flowering possible in late summer. The plant produces seed pods which 'explode' during warm weather to assist in seed dispersal.

Montpellier broom is a '**Declared Weed**' in Tasmania. A Management Plan is available at

https://dpiwta.tas.gov.au/Documents/Montpellier-broom_WMP_2011.pdf

Plans can usually be hand-pulled quite easily, although very mature plants may require mechanical or herbicide control.



Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is a spiny shrub which can reach more than 3 m in height and breadth. Flowering tends to take place during spring and autumn, though flowering has been observed at most time of year in Tasmania. Gorse can densely colonize hillsides, pasture land, open forest, disturbed areas, roadsides, and waterways. Dense infestations of gorse also

increase the risk of bushfires, and provide shelter for feral animals.

The seed pods contain 1-6 seeds, which can ‘explode’ and spread up to 5 m., and each plant produces a large number of seeds. The seeds can remain viable for up to 30 years in the soil. Animals also facilitate spread, particularly birds and ants.

Gorse can be difficult to remove, due to the size and thorns. Tackling the outlying plants and working towards the middle of the infestation is most effective. Gorse is a ‘**Declared Weed**’ in Tasmania. Refer to the Gorse-Statutory Management Plan at

https://dipwwe.tas.gov.au/Documents/Gorse_WMP_2011.pdf

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) was a popular hedge species that has become a problematic weed species. It can form very dense thickets, and has long sharp thorns. The deep red berries, which are eaten by birds and animals, are easily spread. Due to their thorny and dense woody growth, they can be challenging to remove, and often require herbicide to control. Cutting the trunk near the base and painting with herbicide can be an effective method of control when plants are fairly isolated. Hawthorn can spread through pastureland, bushland and riparian zones.

Hawthorn can also harbor the Biosecurity risk species ‘Fire Blight’ *Erwinia amylovora*.

Historic hawthorn hedges may be carefully maintained, though care in monitoring the spread of the species is recommended.



Spanish heath

(*Erica lusitanica*) is an extremely combustible weed growing along 'nature strips, open areas, and disturbed ground. It is very fast spreading, and can take over paddocks, or the understorey of open forests if not treated. Spanish heath can grow to at least 2.5 m in height, and each plant

can produce millions of small seeds, which can be dispersed by wind, water, animals, vehicles tyres, or shoes.

Immature plants can be pulled out by hand, though larger plants require mechanical assistance, or cutting the main stem, and immediately painting with herbicide.

Larger infestations could require treatment with herbicide.

Refer to the DPIPWE recommendations for treating Spanish heath at <https://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/erica/herbicides-for-control-of-spanish-heath>



Kunzea (*Kunzea ericoides*) is a shrub which reaches approximately 3 m in height. Kunzea can colonize disturbed ground by out-competing native shrub and understorey species. It produces copious amounts of fine

seeds during autumn, which can be transported on clothing, machinery, or animals.

While currently the main populations of this species are around Gowrie Park, the potential to spread into natural forest areas and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area are very high.

The species is particularly tenacious, and once established it is very hard to remove. Hand pull small plants, and larger plants can be treated by cutting stems close to the ground and painting immediately with herbicide. Heavy infestations require treatment with herbicide sprays, which often may need to be repeated.

Kunzea ericoides should not be confused with Tasmanian Kunzea species.



Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) is a biennial plant which can grow to 2- 2.5 m in height, and can be easily identified during flowering and seeding by the prickly conical seed head, with the seeds remaining viable for at least 5 years. The plant starts as a rosette, and as the plant matures, the leaves can be as long as 0.5 m. Teasel colonizes pasture, road

sides, disturbed areas, and moist ground.

Teasel can be controlled during the rosette stage by cultivation, or mowing and slashing during early summer before the seeds have developed. Where dense infestations are occurring, herbicide may be used to treat Teasel.

The dried heads have been used for wool teasing, and flower arranging.

Remove the seed heads before seeding and place in sealed bags for disposal to prevent spread. Large infestations may require treatment with herbicide. If dense thickets are removed, replant with native vegetation to discourage re-infestation with the weed.



Briar rose (*Rosa rubiginosa*) is a prickly shrub that is becoming more common along fence-lines, roadsides, and unkempt pastures and forest fringes. It grows up to 3 m high, with pink flowers, and easily identifiable red ‘hips’ in autumn or winter. Animals and bird ingest the ‘hips’ and assist in the spread. It

can also spread by stem pieces sprouting roots. Briars can be difficult to remove, and it is often easier to cut and paint with herbicide. Larger infestations may require mechanical assistance, such as a bulldozer, or tractor and cultivator



Viper's bugloss

(*Echium vulgare*) is

a weed

which

colonizes

disturbed

ground

(roadsides,

pastures,

and

harvested

plantation

land).

Viper's

bugloss and

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m), are

toxic to

livestock and are '**Declared weeds**' in Tasmania. Seedlings appear in autumn, and flowering takes place in spring.

Plants should be hand-pulled before seeding occurs. It is a

legal responsibility to treat these species if they occur on

your property. Consult the DPIPWE or Kentish Council for

treatment information for larger infestations.

Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) can grow to 1 m

in height and can colonize large areas quickly, particularly

pastureland, road sides, and harvested plantation areas. It

can completely colonize a large area very quickly. A mature

plant can produce approximately 26,000 seeds which can be

spread, by animals, wind, water, and vehicles. The seeds can

remain viable for up to 39 years.





Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has become a high priority weed in the Kentish area. All parts of the plants contain cardiac glycosides and are **toxic if ingested**. Foxgloves start as a rosette of large downy leaves, and the flowers appear in spring. The flowers can be purple, white or pink, and flowering in Kentish can occur through to late summer. Each flower head produces thousands of small seeds with a large

plant producing over 2,000,000.

Touching any part of the plant can lead to skin rashes, headache and nausea. Eating any part of the foxglove can cause death.

Always use gloves when removing plants. Do not remove the plants while they are seeding or the spread will increase dramatically. Seed are viable for many years.



Did you know that weeds have been spread onto Mount Roland because people dump their garden waste and soils in the bush? Rather than taking their waste to the

Municipal Tip, some choose to drive up a bush track to dump their rubbish, meaning that weed seeds and plant material establish in bushland areas. More than a dozen such sites are to be found around Mount Roland, some of the weeds have rapidly spread and are now very difficult and costly to eradicate. Council working with Mount Roland Rivercare are setting up remote sensor cameras in strategic bushland areas to identify offenders, so beware – it's illegal to dump your waste in the bush, and you may well be caught in the act! **Green waste and other materials can be taken to the Sheffield Tip at no charge to local residents** – so do the right thing, and help protect our amazing natural bushland.