

Urban Weeds of The Coffs Harbour Local Government Area

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Introduction

- Coffs Harbour City Council Bush Regeneration Crew is funded by the Environmental Levy Program and has been operational for 10 years.
- Main Projects include:
 - Camphor laurel removal along Coffs Creek and revegetation of riparian areas. Target weed control extends to privet, celtis, exotic pines and pepper tree –determined by funding allocations every year.
 - Coastal Projects involving bitou bush and glory lily in all State Park areas, Sawtell & Boambee.
 - Koala habitat restoration projects through Toormina currently funded by the NRCMA.
 - Target threatened species/ Endangered Ecological Community rehabilitation projects throughout Coffs Harbour funded by NRCMA, Wetland care and EL
 - Assisting Landcare Groups in regeneration and revegetation projects throughout Coffs Harbour.

Urban Weeds in the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area

● Trees and Shrubs

- Camphor laurel
- Privet (small leaved)
- Ochna
- Cestrum
- Cassia
- Lantana
- Umbrella Tree
- Murraya
- Golden Rain tree

● Vine Weeds

- Corky Passion fruit
- Madeira Vine
- Balloon Vine
- Mile-a-minute
- Purple morning glory
- Climbing night shade
- Climbing asparagus fern
- Moth vine
- Desmodium (silverleaf)

● Ground Covers

- Broad-leaf Paspalum
- Wandering Jew
- Ground Asparagus
- Glory Lily
- Sagitaria

The NEW WEEDS Emerging in the Last 10 years are.....

White Passion Fruit *Passiflora subpeltata*

- Spread by birds & bats.
- Most Common vine weed in Coffs Harbour.
- Found in all forest types and coastal plant communities.
- Strangles Trees
- Ex banana plantations have become a monoculture of vine.



Corky Passion fruit *Passiflora suberosa* is also an issue throughout the urban/reserve area.

Climbing Asparagus Fern *Asparagus plumosus*



- Still found in gardens
- Even with isolated plants in the urban area the spread into bushland is continual



Ground Asparagus *Asparagus aethiopicus* is also an issue.

Climbing Nightshade *Solanum seaforthianum*



- Is still sold in nurseries throughout Coffs Harbour.
- It is found from coastal dune to moist forest environments.
- It has become more common in the last 5 years.



Lady of the Night

Cestrum nocturnum



- Is still sold in nurseries throughout Coffs Harbour.
- Cestrum is found in all riparian areas of Coffs Harbour LGA in urban reserves.
- Spread by birds
- Viable seed and very fast growing.



Coralberry

Ardisia crenata

- Commonly sold in nurseries throughout Coffs Harbour.
- Heavy seed set
- Spread by birds



Murraya & Duranta

Murraya paniculata & *Duranta repens*



- 1 in 5 households own a duranta or murraya or both.
- Both have become popular over the last few years in urban areas.
- Both are sold in nurseries around Coffs Harbour.
- Murraya sets heavy fruit and is found in most forested area.
- Duranta is beginning to appear in shady forested areas



Mickey Mouse Plant

Ochna serulata



- Very popular in the 70's as a nursery plant & the legacy remains today.
- Massive shrubs are present in gardens throughout Coffs, Sawtell & Woolgoolga.
- Found in all environments from mountains to coastal.
- Ochna is hard to control using existing techniques.

Umbrella Tree

Schefflera actinophylla



- Very common in gardens.
- Spread by birds.
- Can be epiphytic



Golden Rain Tree

Koelreuteria paniculata



- Heavy seed set with a 99% viability
- Wind & water spread (papery seed) disperses well through the reserve system.
- Issues with parent trees in urban backyards.



Conclusion



- The big problems with controlling weeds in the urban bushland is the spread of seed from residential gardens.
- The continual sale of environmental weeds in nurseries in the Coffs Area.
- We need to assist residents with subsidised removal of environmental weeds from their yards.
- Tougher legislation & stricter conditions on what nurseries can sell.

This is just some of the problem weeds now evident in the Coffs Harbour Local Government Area