

# Weed Control on Private Property

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The community plays an important role in reducing the spread of weeds in the local area through weed control on private property and volunteering with local Friends Groups in bushland areas

A weed is a plant growing in an area where it does not naturally occur. Weeds in the environment are a significant threat to biodiversity in Western Australia. Many of the most serious weeds are garden plants that have ‘escaped’ into the natural environment. Weeds compete with native plants for space, water and nutrients and can have flow on effects in the environment, such as increasing fire risk and reducing habitat and food available to native animals. Some weeds are listed as Weeds of National Significance or Declared Plants under State legislation, which means land managers have a legal requirement to manage them (further information can on these weeds can be found on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development’s [website](#).)

## What can you do to help?

Residents can help reduce the overall weed burden in their Local Government area by maintaining their property and verge. Reducing the presence of weeds on private property can reduce the amount of weed seed and reproductive material that is spread into the wider environment by wind, water and animals. To help reduce the spread of weeds in your area:

- remove weeds before seed is released. Some species have seed that can remain viable in the soil for more than five years.
- dispose of garden waste responsibly into the organics bin or general waste bin (depending on what waste management system is available in your Local Government area), or home compost. Never dump green waste into natural areas or parks, as some weed species can grow into a new plant from fragments of the original plant.
- monitor the weeded area to ensure weeds do not re-establish.
- understand the reproductive biology of the weed species you are trying to control to successfully remove it. For example, mowing weeds in lawns can suppress some species, but some weed species such as those with bulbs, tubers or corms can respond by growing more vigorously.
- mulch to suppress weed germination and growth.
- plant garden beds densely to crowd out weeds. When planting in your garden, species selection is important. The best option is to select locally native, waterwise species.

Below are a few websites that can help with plant selection:

- [Grow Me Instead](#)
- [Bring Nature Home • ReWild Perth](#)
- [Florabase—the Western Australian Flora \(dpaw.wa.gov.au\)](#)
- Source weed free mulch and soils when undertaking garden projects.

### **Fire risk management**

Local Governments have responsibility under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to ensure that private properties within their area manage fire risk. It is common for Local Governments to issue a written notice under this legislation requiring an owner or occupier of land to manage the fire risk on a property. This notice is sometimes known as a Firebreak Order or a Firebreak and Fuel load Notice, and may include managing weeds and dead weed biomass on your property.

### **Bushcare volunteering**

There are almost 90 community conservation groups that are actively involved in protection and conservation of urban bushland areas. These groups undertake many activities, including weeding, planting and community engagement programs. To learn more about your nearest bushland 'Friends of' group, refer to the Urban Bushland Councils [map](#) or contact your Local Government for a list of groups in your area.