



**Asparagus Fern**  
*Asparagus scandens* LILIACEAE  
Origin: South Africa

**Description:**  
Twining, climbing perennial herb growing from underground tubers with aerial parts to 2m high on supporting vegetation.  
**Flowers:** Small white to pinkish flowers, topped by yellow anthers, appear in late winter and spring.  
**Leaves:** (Cladodes) Somewhat fern-like in appearance. Spear-shaped and pointed towards the tips. Usually grouped in threes at each node.  
**Fruit:** Orange to red berries may remain on plant until next flowering season.

- Notes:**
- Becoming more common in townships, invading reserves and moister areas.
  - Twining stems are very strong and can strangle small indigenous plants.
  - Dense roots and tuber mats are thick and prevent moisture penetrating to the soil below.
  - Seeds are dispersed by birds, and new plants also form from dumping of roots in garden waste.

**Status:** Weed of National Significance.

**Weed treatment:**



**Banana Passionfruit**  
*Passiflora tarminiana* PASSIFLORACEAE  
Origin: South American Andes

**Description:**  
A perennial vine/climber.  
**Flowers:** Pink petals joining to a long greenish floral tube at the centre. 6cm in diameter.  
**Leaves:** Clearly-defined veins, velvety-hairy underside, toothed margins, 7-10cm long, clearly divided into 3 lobes.  
**Fruit:** Green elongated or oval berry to 12cm long, turns yellow when mature. Hairy when young and contains many seeds in an orange-coloured pulp.

- Notes:**
- Smothers out native vegetation with its dense growth, and prevents recruitment of natives.
  - Fast growing and found in moist places.
  - Coiled tendrils are borne in the leaf forks, and help the plant climb.
  - Flowering can occur throughout the year.
  - Seeds are dispersed by birds and other animals that eat the fruit.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weedy Facts:** Banana Passionfruit is a vigorous climbing plant that can extend 20m into the forest canopy.

**Weed treatment:**



**Blue Periwinkle**  
*Vinca major* APOCYNACEAE  
Origin: Europe

**Description:**  
A trailing perennial herb with long, tough stems capable of covering hundreds of square metres. Forms a dense intertwined ground cover.  
**Flowers:** Solitary lilac-blue flowers to 50mm in diameter appear in spring in the leaf axils. Flowers have five petals widely spreading and squared at ends.  
**Leaves:** Dark green, oval shiny leaves with pointed tips.  
**Fruit:** A capsule to 50mm long, tapering, in pairs and joined at the base.

- Notes:**
- Produces little or no seed and is spread primarily by stems rooting at the tips.
  - The species can cover large areas, especially in shaded moist locations.
  - Will also grow in a wide range of conditions on moderately fertile soils provided there is seasonal moisture.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weed treatment:**



**Bluebell Creeper**  
*Billardiera fusiformis* PITTOSPORACEAE  
Origin: Western Australia

**Description:**  
A dense, tangled shrub to about 2m high, or twining climber to 3m or more. Juvenile plants do not climb, but after establishing their root system the plants quickly convert to the mature form. Young stems shiny reddish-brown.  
**Flowers:** Nodding, deep blue bell-shaped flowers on slender stalks from spring to summer.  
**Leaves:** Smooth dark green, narrowly oblong to lance-shaped.  
**Fruit:** Pendant, translucent grey-green sausage-shaped berries that darken as they ripen.

- Notes:**
- Large colonies, many metres wide, can be formed.
  - Thrives in a wide range of environments, including coastal heath, heathland, woodland and forest.
  - Birds disperse the seeds to new areas.

**Similar native species:** Common Apple-berry *Billardiera scandens*.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weed treatment:**



**Bridal Creeper**  
*Asparagus asparagoides* LILIACEAE  
Origin: South Africa

**Description:**  
A twining, climbing perennial herb to 3m high with branching wiry stems growing from underground water-storing tubers. It has annual aerial parts.  
**Flowers:** Solitary small white flowers with a green stripe on each folding-back petal, appear in winter to spring.  
**Leaves:** (Cladodes) Are dense shiny with a pointed tip. As fruit ripens the leaves yellow and fall.  
**Fruit:** Red berries in spring and summer.

- Notes:**
- Recognised as one of the worst environmental weeds in the region, invading various vegetation types and soils.
  - Forms huge masses of canopy over shrubs and trees, preventing regeneration.
  - Produces a thick mat of underground tubers that prevents penetration of moisture.
  - Dispersed by birds and also by dumping of roots as garden waste.

**Similar native species:** Apple-berry *Billardiera mutabilis*, Small-leaved Clematis *Clematis microphylla* and Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia australis*.

**Status:** Weed of National Significance.

**Weed treatment:**



**Agapanthus (African Lily)**  
*Agapanthus praecox* subsp. *orientalis* LILIACEAE  
Origin: South Africa

**Description:**  
Evergreen perennial herb growing in a leafy clump to 1m wide from a thick rhizome.  
**Flowers:** Large blue or white flower heads on smooth, long, thick stems to about 1.2m high in summer.  
**Leaves:** Glossy green, strap-shaped leaves form clumps up to 600mm high.  
**Fruit:** Seed capsules release abundant glossy black winged seeds in late summer and autumn.

- Notes:**
- Commonly naturalises in a variety of coastal and inland situations where plants can often be seen growing along roadsides.
  - Reproduction is by seed or dumped garden refuse.
  - Seeds are wind and water dispersed, sometimes for many metres along drainage lines.

**Similar native species:** Black-anther Flax-lily *Dianella revoluta*.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weed treatment:**



**Arum Lily**  
*Zantedeschia aethiopica* ARACEAE  
Origin: South Africa

**Description:**  
Perennial herb with large, starchy, tuber-like underground rhizome.  
**Flowers:** The small, yellow male and female flowers arranged in the central column are surrounded by a large white spathe on an erect stem to 1m. Flowers mostly in spring and early summer, but often at other times.  
**Leaves:** Large, leathery, dark green and arrow-head shaped. Clumps of juvenile leaves are often seen emerging from the underground rhizomes.  
**Fruit:** Green or yellow berries that turn orange when ripe.

- Notes:**
- Considered extremely poisonous to all animals, and is also toxic and can cause irritations to humans.
  - Highly invasive in moist areas - along streams, drainage lines and in swamps or in inter-dune corridors.
  - Dispersed by birds or water and by fragmentation of rhizome.
  - Often spread by movement of contaminated soil and through dumping of garden waste.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weed treatment:**



**Cape Ivy**  
*Delairea odorata* ASTERACEAE  
Origin: South Africa

**Description:**  
A dense, vigorous, fast-growing climber that twines or scrambles over associated plants.  
**Flowers:** Fragrant small, bright yellow, daisy-like flowers in small clusters in winter. They do not have ray florets (petals).  
**Leaves:** Dense, pale green, slightly fleshy, smooth ivy-like leaves, silvery below.  
**Fruit:** Reddish-brown, tiny with a ring of slender white hairs.

- Notes:**
- A dense, vigorous, fast-growing climber that twines or scrambles over associated plants.
  - Forms a dense ground cover to 300mm and an overhead canopy, eventually killing the vegetation over which it climbs.
  - Very shade tolerant and grows successfully in gullies, along river banks, in cool forests and in coastal scrub.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire.

**Weed treatment:**



**English Ivy**  
*Hedera helix* ARALIACEAE  
Origin: Europe

**Description:**  
A large woody climber attaching to trees, rocks and other surfaces by numerous fine stem roots. Horizontal stems root at the nodes when they contact the soil. This perennial evergreen grows to a height of 30m or more.  
**Flowers:** Has small, yellowish-green flowers, star-shaped and usually in spherical clusters, in autumn.  
**Leaves:** Glossy dark green on the upper surface, and often variegated. Veins are very conspicuous. Leaves on non-flowering stems are lobed, those on fertile flowering stems are unlobed.  
**Fruit:** Small, black berries in winter.

- Notes:**
- Ivy is highly shade tolerant and forms a dense impenetrable ground cover.
  - Climbs and smothers shrubs and trees.
  - May occur in a variety of locations and is most seriously invasive in forests where it grows high into the canopy.
  - Birds eat the berries and disperse the seeds.

**Similar native species:** Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia australis*.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weed treatment:**



**Wandering Trad (Wandering Creeper)**  
*Tradescantia fluminensis* COMMELINACEAE  
Origin: South America

**Description:**  
A trailing, succulent perennial herb.  
**Flowers:** Three spreading white petals with pointed tips, 7-10mm long, arranged in clusters at the top of stems.  
**Leaves:** Dark green on top and slightly purplish underneath. Alternately arranged, oval, glossy and somewhat fleshy. 3-6.5 cm long and 1-3 cm wide.  
**Fruit:** Papery capsules usually containing six seeds.

- Notes:**
- Spreads vegetatively by stolons and broken root fragments which disperse by water, machinery, vehicles and in dumped garden waste.
  - Invades damp shady areas, in particular along the banks of waterways.
  - Outcompetes native vegetation and prevents recruitment.
  - Causes skin irritation in humans and animals.

**Similar native species:** Forest Hounds Tongue *Cynoglossum latifolium*, Mountain Clematis *Clematis aristata*

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weedy Facts:** Wandering Trad is poisonous to cattle in large quantities due to its high concentration of nitrate.

**Weed treatment:**



This brochure identifies the 20 most significant weeds for the coastal areas of Colac Otway Shire.

**What are environmental weeds?**

Environmental weeds are plants that pose a threat to our natural environment. They can be native to Australia, but most have been introduced from overseas. Some are well-known such as Gorse, while others are often overlooked and/or are emerging weeds, like Chilean Needle Grass. Some well-known weeds such as Blackberry have not been included in this brochure, though they still present a serious threat and must be controlled. Instead, less-familiar weeds have been included to raise awareness of the threat they present.

**What impact do they have?**

Environmental weeds degrade and displace native vegetation, which can lead to habitat loss, extinction of flora and fauna, increased bushfire risk, and decreased agricultural productivity. Each of the weeds described in this brochure represents either an existing or potential threat to Colac Otway Shire's environmental values.

- For example:
- Sweet Pittosporum, Banana Passionfruit and Bluebell Creeper attract birds which disperse their seeds into reserves and bushland. The ensuing plants can strangle and out-compete local plant species, causing their extinction and reducing wildlife habitat.
  - Coast Tea-tree, Spanish Heath and species of Broom are highly flammable and substantially increase fuel loads around homes and surrounding areas, which adds to the bushfire risk and can change long-term fire patterns.
  - Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needle-grass can quickly invade native grasslands which are already endangered, in addition to threatening the productive capacity of agricultural areas. Guarding against this threat requires Council, State and Federal Government, local landholders and community volunteers to invest significant time, effort and resources in controlling and eradicating weeds.

**What can I do to help?**

If you live in the shire you have a key role to play. **You can help by:**

- Choosing your garden plants wisely and selecting local indigenous plants where possible. Indigenous species lists are available on Council's website. Note: this is particularly important if you live within 500 metres of a natural area.
- Removing identified weed species from your garden and replacing them with local indigenous plants. This brochure aims to help you fulfil this role by describing the 20 most problematic weeds in your area and identifying appropriate treatment methods for each.
- Depositing your garden waste in your green-lidded Council bin or at your local landfill.
- Entering and leaving natural areas with caution. Check your shoes and clothes for seeds and ensure you enter clean and exit clean.
- Joining a local conservation group and volunteering to protect the natural areas that you know and love.



Coast





**Montbretia**  
*Crocsmia x crocosmiflora* IRIDACEAE  
Origin: South Africa

**Description:**  
A corm-bearing perennial herb with annual leaves and flowers.  
**Flowers:** Up to 20 yellow to orange trumpet-shaped flowers per stem with zigzag flower stalks to 900mm high.  
**Leaves:** Soft, strap-like and mostly at the base with 6-12 leaves per plant, 300-800mm long and 10-20mm wide.  
**Fruit:** A usually shrivelled brown capsule containing round, brown seeds.

**Notes:**

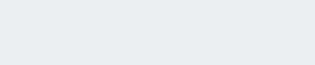
- Forms widespread and dense clumps to the exclusion of indigenous plants.
- Spread as corms and rhizomes are moved to new areas by water or machinery.
- Many populations have originated from garden rubbish dumping.

**Status:** Environmental weed in Colac Otway Shire

**Weed treatment:**



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**Weed treatment:**



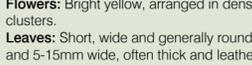
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**Weed treatment:**



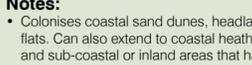
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**Weed treatment:**



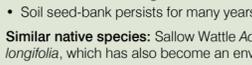
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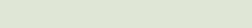
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**Weed treatment:**



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**Weed treatment:**



**Ox-eye Daisy**  
*Leucanthemum vulgare* ASTERACEAE  
Origin: Europe and Asia

**Description:**  
An erect, sparsely-branched perennial herb to 90cm.  
**Flowers:** Numerous white petals with yellow centre in a typical daisy formation, growing singly at ends of branches.  
**Leaves:** Spoon-shaped, to 8cm long, irregularly toothed or lobed, alternately arranged.  
**Fruit:** Small, ribbed and numerous. Dark brown, black or grey in colour.

**Notes:**

- Found in wetter, temperate regions, mostly along roadsides, in open bushland, or grassland, pasture, wasteland and other disturbed sites.
- A prolific seeder that is tolerant of a wide range of conditions, and can withstand frost.
- Forms dense patches that exclude almost all other vegetation.

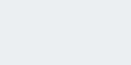
**Similar native species:** Satin Everlasting *Helichysum leucosideum*. Blunt Everlasting *Argentipallium obtusifolium*. Leaves can look like that of native Fireweeds (*Senecio* spp.)

**Status:** Declared Noxious Weed

**Weed treatment:**



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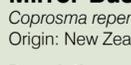
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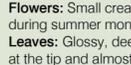
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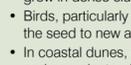
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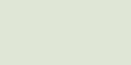
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