

Common Garden Escapees on KI

Background

Kangaroo Island is unique in that our towns and homes are surrounded by bushland. Many garden plants, even those that are native to other parts of Australia, can spread into the bush where they can out-compete our native plants and change the habitat, making it less suitable for our native animals.

If you have any of these plants in your garden, please remove, or control the spread of seedlings. Do not dump garden waste in the scrub. Garden waste can be taken direct to the KI Council Dump, or 'solarised' (see below).

The KI Landscape Board grows a variety of plants native to KI which can be grown in place of the weedy species listed in this brochure. These plants grow successfully in our local conditions, won't become weedy and will make a beautiful feature in your garden.

This article is a collaboration of work between the Parndana Progress Association, Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) and KI Landscape Board, with assistance from the Department of Environment and Water and the KI Council.

Control Techniques

Spot Spray

Using knapsack sprayer, spray herbicide to coat every leaf. Be careful of spray drifts. Add a wetter agent (e.g. Pulse) to herbicide to help leaf penetration at 10 ml per 10 L.

Solarising

Place all parts of plant into triple-lined, thick garbage bag and leave in sun for 1 month. Dispose in general waste, not green bin.

Manual Removal

Remove all plants, roots/tubers from ground. Leave with roots up, or place in green bin.

Cut & Swab

Cut stem/trunk low to the ground and apply herbicide immediately with dabber/ paint brush at specified concentration.



African Weed Orchid

Disa bracteata

Appearance: Orchid sprouting from underground bulb in late winter. Sword-like leaves green with red tinge. Many small, hooded cream-pink-red flowers grow up stem. Fine seeds spread by wind. Also spreads by underground bulbs.

Impact: Invades bushland and out competes ground flora like orchids.

Control: Manual removal before seeding, ensuring entire bulb is collected. Solarise. Spot spray with 100mL glyphosate (360g/L) per 10L water.



Arum lily

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Appearance: Large lily to 1m tall with long, dark green, fleshy leaves. Large, white, funnel-shaped flowers with yellow centre in spring. Spreads by seeds and fleshy roots with extensive tubers.

Impact: Toxic to humans and livestock. Smothers native plants.

Control: Cut & swab with 10-50mL glyphosate (360g/L) per 1L water or 0.05-0.1g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 1L water. Manual removal; ensure removal of all bulbs.



Bluebell creeper

Billardiera heterophylla

Appearance: Evergreen climber with shiny, lance-shaped leaves. Clusters blue, pink or white flowers in summer to autumn. Fruits contain >50 seeds dispersed by birds, ants and possibly possums. N.B. there are some very similar *Billardieras* (*B. cymosa*, *uniflora* & *versicolor*) which are native to KI; please ensure correct identification.

Impact: Toxic to humans and livestock. Smothers native plants.

Control: Cut & swab with 10-50mL glyphosate (360g/L) per 1L water or 0.05-0.1g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 1L water. Manual removal; ensure removal of all bulbs.

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Bracelet honey-myrtle *Melaleuca armillaris*

Appearance: Fast growing tree to 8m tall. Dark green, feathery foliage with white, cylindrical flower spikes in spring and summer. Numerous, tiny seeds fall near parent plants, and carried by wind and water.

Impact: Spreading canopy shades out native shrubs and prevents their growth.

Control: Cut & swab with glyphosate (450g/L) undiluted. Spot spray with 100mL glyphosate (450g/L) plus 1g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) in 10L water.



Bridal creeper & bridal veil *Asparagus spp.*

Appearance: Climbing vines with twining stems, emerging in cooler months. Stems grow from dense, underground, tuberous root mats. Small white-green flowers. Large fleshy fruits.

Impact: Smothers and out-competes native plants.

Control: Manual removal ensuring all rhizomes and tubers collected. Solarise. Spot spray with 100mL glyphosate (360g/L) + 0.3g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 10L water.



Cape Leeuwin wattle *Paraserianthes lophantha*

Appearance: Fast growing shrub or tree with fern-like, feathery foliage. Greenish-yellow bottlebrush flowers in winter. Ochre-coloured pods with seed dispersed by birds, slashing and garden waste.

Impact: Dense stands crowd native shrubs and prevent regeneration. Spreads rapidly after fire.

Control: Cut & swab with glyphosate (450g/L) diluted 1:10. Spot spray with 80mL glyphosate (360g/L) + 1g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 10L water.



One-leaf Cape Tulip *Moraea flaccida*

Appearance: Long, strappy leaves emerge after autumn rains. Orange-salmon-yellow flowers in spring. Underground bulb-like corm. Seed is spread by wind, water or soil.

Impact: Toxic to grazing animals. Invades agricultural lands and open areas of native vegetation.

Control: Spot spray with 80mL glyphosate (450g/L) + 0.5g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 10L water. Manual removal before seeding, ensure corm is removed, solarise.

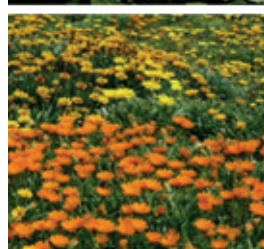


Coastal tea-tree *Leptospermum laevigatum*

Appearance: Tall shrub to 6m. Grey-green, flat, stiff leaves, with rounded tips and numerous white flowers. Woody capsules shed many tiny seeds spread by wind, water, human planting and garden waste.

Impact: Drought tolerant, forming dense thickets that eliminate other native plants.

Control: Spot spray (seedlings) 100mL glyphosate (450g/L) in 10L water. Cut & Swab with 100mL triclopyr (600g/L) in 3L diesel.



Gazania *Gazania spp.*

Appearance: Perennial daisy to 30cm tall, forming clumps and dense mats of vegetation. Long, slender green leaves with white, hairy undersides. Yellow-orange-pink daisy-shaped flowers produce an abundance of seed. Seeds spread through wind, water and garden waste.

Impact: Dense stands rapidly out-compete native plants.

Control: Spot spray with 100mL glyphosate (360g/L) per 10L water.



Mirror bush *Coprosma repens*

Appearance: Low-growing shrub or tree with thick, glossy, oval leaves with curved edges. Egg-shaped orange-red berries or small, inconspicuous pale green-whitish flowers in clusters in fork of the leaf. Seed is dispersed by birds, animals and garden waste.

Impact: Forms dense clumps which prevent native plant growth.

Control: Manual removal ensure all roots removed. Cut & swab with glyphosate (450g/L) undiluted.



Polygala *Polygala myrtifolia*

Appearance: Dense, evergreen shrub to 4m tall. Oblong to oval shaped leaves with purple and white pea flowers. Green fruit develop to heart-shaped pods and release two seeds spread by birds, water and ants.

Impact: Spreads through, and dominates, native plant understorey.

Control: Cut & swab with Vigilant II® undiluted gel. Spot spray with 100mL glyphosate (450g/L) per 10L water. Manual removal.



Sallow wattle *Acacia longifolia* var. *longifolia*

Appearance: Fast growing tree 2-8m tall, with yellow wattle spikes in winter and spring. Seed dispersed by birds and ants, and through slashing, soil and garden waste. Looks very similar to coastal wattle (*A. longifolia* var. *sophorae*) which only grows naturally near the coast on KI. The weed species has longer leaves with a pointed tip.

Impact: Dense stands prevent native plant germination. Has invaded roadsides.

Control: Cut & swab with glyphosate (360g/L) diluted 1:2 with water.



Sweet Pittosporum *Pittosporum undulatum*

Appearance: Evergreen tree 5-20m tall with shiny, dark green leaves with wavy edges. Clusters of creamy-white fragrant flowers. Fleshy, orange berries split to reveal many sticky seeds dispersed by birds, possibly possums and in garden waste.

Impact: Dense foliage shades native shrubs and prevents regeneration.

Control: Cut & swab with glyphosate (450g/L) undiluted or Vigilant II® undiluted gel.



Watsonia *Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbifera*

Appearance: Winter growing bulb forming thickets of tall, sword-like leaves and a 2m tall flowering stem. Orange, tubular flowers in spring to summer. Corms spread by water, slashing and garden waste.

Impact: Forms dense clumps that prevent native plants germinating.

Control: Spot spray with 100mL glyphosate (360g/L) + 0.3g metsulfuron-methyl (600g/kg) per 10L water. Manual removal Dig up corms, solarise.

Further Information

PIRSA Kingscote

P 8553 4949

Further information on these and other weeds can be found on the PIRSA website:



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