

## Blanket Weed (*Galaenia pubescens*)

Introduced from South Africa, this prostrate mat-forming perennial grows to over a metre wide, smothering plants in its way. The small five petaled white or pink flowers produce seed and the plant can re-grow from roots and stems. Currently growing along the Calder Fwy. Similar native plants – Saltbushes.



## Gazania (*Gazania linearis*)

Introduced from Southern Africa, this rosette-forming perennial herb produces large brightly coloured flowers with black marks near the centre. The taproot enables this plant to withstand hot dry conditions. Widespread.



## Treatment of local weeds

Weeds are best treated using a targeted approach. Follow up monitoring and treatment is usually required. The main things to keep in mind when dealing with infestations of weeds are;

- Stop seed production – control plants before seed production or, if not possible, remove flower heads.
- Work on outlying plants first, moving towards the worst infestations.
- Work in the best areas of bushland first as it is always easier to preserve rather than to replant.

## Control Methods

- C+P** Cut and Paint – cut the main stem below first branches and quickly, within seconds, apply undiluted herbicide.
- S** Spray – Ask your local agricultural supplier for an appropriate herbicide.
- MR** Manual Removal – hand pull seedlings or smaller infestations being sure to remove all of the parts of the plants which may regrow. Where plants have a large taproot or underground storage system such as a rhizome, corm or bulb, it is important to remove as much of the plant as possible so that it does not regrow.

As there are similar native species it is advisable to seek advice if you are in any doubt.

## Links and resources

Weeds Australia [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds)

Friends of the Box Ironbark Forest [www.fobif.org.au](http://www.fobif.org.au)

Connecting Country [www.connectingcountry.org.au](http://www.connectingcountry.org.au)

VicVeg Online [www.vicveg.net.au](http://www.vicveg.net.au)

## ID Books

Richardson FJ, Richardson RG, Shepherd RCH, 2011, *Weeds of the south-east: an identification guide for Australia*. Second edition.

Muyt, Adam, 2001, *Bush Invaders of South-East Australia, a guide to the identification and control of environmental weeds found in South-East Australia*.

Photos supplied by Ern and Lesley Perkins, and Bonnie Humphreys. This brochure was produced in partnership by FOBIF and Harcourt Valley Landcare Group.

## Have you seen these pest plants?

### A guide to some bushland weeds in the Mount Alexander Shire



The weeds in this guide can take over large areas of native bushland and roadside reserves, replacing indigenous flora and reducing habitat for native fauna. They can also encroach on farmland and reduce productivity if not controlled.



Landcare  
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## You can help manage these local weeds.

This guide gives an overview of some already prominent and emerging local weeds with information for their identification, treatment and direction for further reading.

### Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera heterophylla*)

Introduced from Western Australia as a garden plant, this vigorous scrambling woody climber has blue, white or pink flowers. Its fleshy 2-4 cm pods are dispersed by animals such as birds and foxes. Similar native plants – Apple Berry.



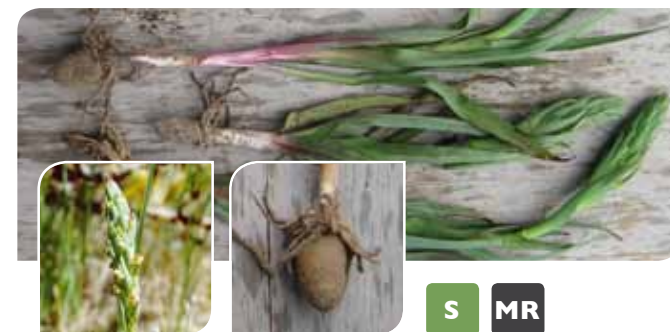
### Spanish Heath (*Erica lustianica*)

Introduced from Europe, this dense shrub grows 1-3m high, with small green leaves and bell shaped white to pink flowers. It produces up to 9,000,000 seeds per year, dominating the shrub layer and excluding smaller plants. Similar native plants – Heaths, Cassinia.



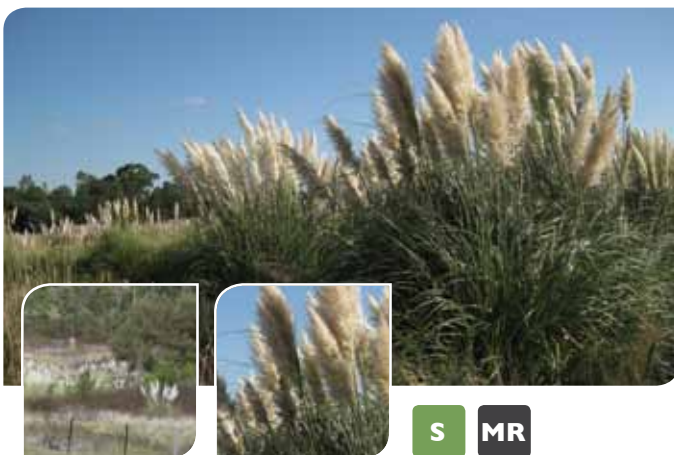
### South African Weed Orchid (*Monadenia bracteata*)

Introduced from South Africa, this new and emerging 'bulb' type plant is very invasive. It forms a rosette of green leaves with red-purple undersides in winter. Flowers appear in spring, followed by dust like seed produced from late spring. Seed can still mature from a picked flower so careful removal is required. Similar native plants – Onion Orchids, Leek Orchids. Becoming more widespread with new infestations recorded in Barkers Creek, Chewton, Elphinstone, Taradale, Barfold, Ravenswood.



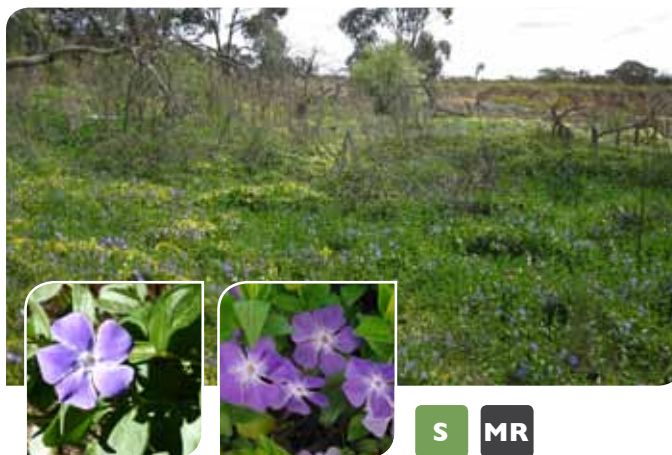
### Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)

Introduced from South America, this tussock forming perennial grass grows to 2m high. It produces fluffy white seed heads which persist most of the year. It can regrow from roots left in the ground. Often found in seasonally wet areas. Similar native plants – Common Reed.



### Blue Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

Introduced from the Mediterranean, this trailing perennial herb has blue flowers and large shiny leaves that forms dense mats. The long tough stems take root, with regrowth occurring from small fragments of broken stems. Common along creeks and waterways in moist shady sites.



### Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*)

Introduced from South Africa, this plant has small creamy white flowers and red berries. It sprouts from underground mat-forming 'roots' (rhizomes and tubers) producing climbing tendrils of small shiny green leaves that smother surrounding plants. Widespread.

