

Kangaroo Island garden weeds

Weeds are plants growing where they aren't wanted!

Some plants escape from gardens and become serious environmental weeds which pose a major threat to the health and value of our natural bushlands.

Weeds alter the landscape by:

- threatening our local native plants and environment
- reducing habitat, shelter and food for native wildlife
- altering soil conditions
- clogging up waterways, affecting water quality
- harbouring pest animals such as feral cats and rats which prey on native wildlife
- altering coastal dune shape.

Garden escapees are very costly to control and take resources away from other important environmental issues.

Environmental weeds originate from other regions with similar climates, such as the Mediterranean, South Africa or other parts of Australia. Thriving in similar conditions, they out compete local native plants as the pests and diseases that controlled them in their original environment are not present in their new environment.

Your garden could be a source of new weeds. Many of the plants we grow in our gardens escape to invade our natural bushland. Birds spread seeds after eating berries and fruits, sending weeds far and wide. Wind and rain help to disperse seeds and the dumping of garden waste into natural areas spreads weeds that grow from corms, bulbs and stems.

Image: Gazania growing in Kingscote (Colin Wilson).



Natural Resources
Kangaroo Island



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Garden plants can grow through fences directly into adjoining natural bushland. Here are some simple ways to enjoy gardening without creating problems outside your garden fence:

- Recognise and remove plants known to be 'weedy'.
- Remove seed heads from plants before they have time to mature and disperse into natural bushland.
- Never tip the water or plants from your aquarium into ponds, rivers or waterways.
- Dispose of weeds that are already seeding or readily able to reproduce vegetatively, including suckers and bulbs. Place them in a black plastic bag, seal it and 'bake it' in the sun until destroyed. This method alone may not kill all parts of the weed and may need to be used in combination with other methods such as burning. If unsure, contact a NRKI control officer.
- Cover your compost so that seeds cannot be distributed by wind or animals. Avoid mulching weeds, in case of seed dispersal throughout your garden.
- Carefully transport green waste to the Kangaroo Island Council's green waste facility.
- Always cover trailers when transporting plant material to prevent seeds and other live plant material falling off.



For more information

Team Leader Pest Management: 0429 616 414

Animal and Plant Control Officer: 0418 708 557

Resources available

Coastal Gardens A planting guide for Kangaroo Island.

A great booklet that provides simple garden advice for coastal residents on Kangaroo Island. Water-wise local native plants are suggested as attractive replacements for introduced plants that are harmful to our local coastal landscapes.

Kangaroo Island Native Plant Nursery

Visit the nursery for local native plants that are suitable for your garden and soil type.

Grow me Instead – A guide for gardeners in South Australia

<http://www.growmeinstead.com.au/public/GMI-brochure-South-Australia.pdf>

Talk with NRKI control officers

for advice on environmental weed identification.

Contact Details

Visit the Natural Resources Kangaroo Island website to find out more about planting locally native plants:

<http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland/plants-and-animals/native-plants/native-plant-nursery>

Images: left fennel, right kiss me quick (Colin Wilson).



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