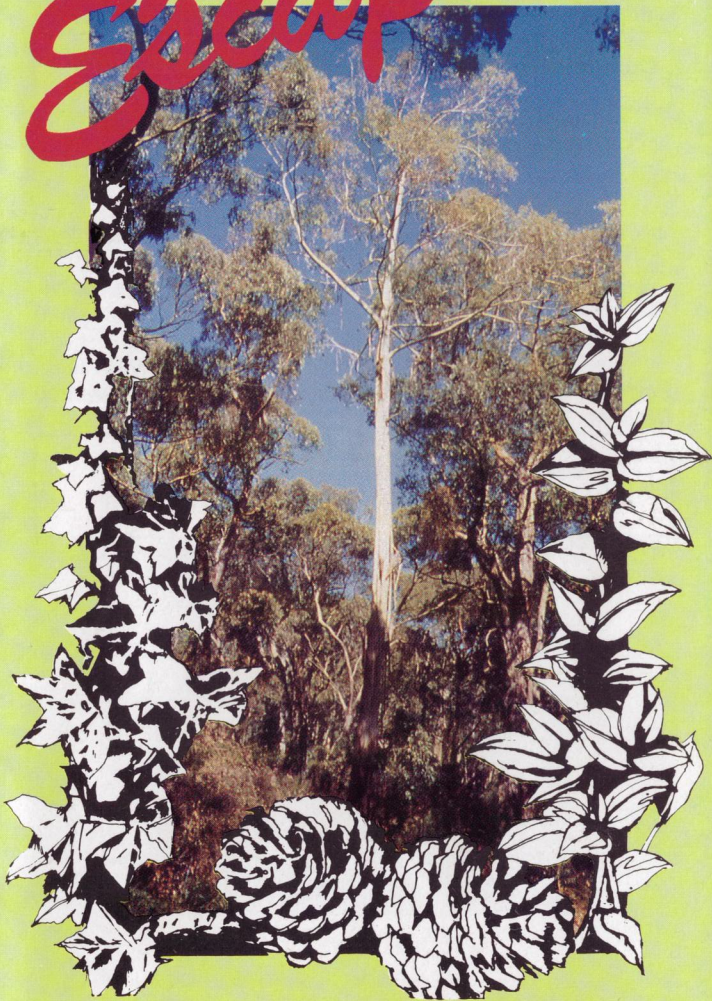


# Garden Escapees!



## A BLOT ON THE MONTROSE LANDSCAPE

### The bushland around Montrose is very important.

- \* It gives our area its special character and link with the past.
- \* It gives people contact with nature, close to an urban environment.
- \* It provides habitat for birds and animals - some of them rare.
- \* It is our local contribution to the distinctive Australian landscape.

### Environmental Weeds . . .

. . . are plants which aggressively invade natural bushland and displace native flora and fauna.

- \* They can be attractive.
- \* They can be trees.
- \* They can be native plants from other localities.
- \* They all disturb the balance of nature.



**Environmental Weeds** present one of the most serious conservation threats in Victoria!

### How can you stop the invasion?

Environmental weeds in your garden are a threat to the local bushland.

**THEY SHOULD BE REMOVED!**

- \* Hand-pull weeds when they are young.
- \* Remove seed heads before they ripen. (One year's seeding, seven years weeding).
- \* Always follow up later to get rid of regrowth.
- \* Don't plant environmental weeds in your garden! (Check the list inside).



*Replace the plants you remove with ones which are locally native.*

### Control Methods

There are four basic control methods, depending on the type of weed. These are represented inside this leaflet by the following symbols:



Hand-pull, taking care to remove roots.



Cut off the stem near the ground.



Cut the stem and paint with weed killer\*.



Spray with weed killer\*.

*\*For advice on weed killers, contact Dept. of Conservation & Environment, Lilydale: Ph. 735-1763.*



## WEED CATEGORIES

The most prevalent environmental weeds around Montrose can be categorised as follows:

### 1. Trees/large shrubs with berries



The seeds of plants in this group spread rapidly in bird droppings and can cause dense infestations in bushland.

A typical example is **Holly**, which is devastating Kalorama Park. Another one is **Sweet Pittosporum**, a native of East Gippsland, which has invaded many roadsides and parks around Montrose.

**Control:**—Small plants: Large plants:



*Sweet Pittosporum*

### 2. Other trees and large shrubs



These plants shed their seeds as the capsules mature and dry. Seeds may be expelled from pods or cones, or released by fire, or dispersed on the wind.

**Monterey pine** (*Pinus radiata*) is an example. It grows fast and spreads quickly in forests.

A number of Wattles and Hakeas have become weeds too, including **Cootamundra Wattle** — a popular bushy plant with greyish, ferny leaves and an outstanding golden display in late June to mid-August.

**Control:**—Small plants: Large plants:

### 3. Smaller shrubs



Many weedy shrubs infesting forests and roadsides are commonly mistaken for local plants. The various **Broom** species have yellow flowers in late winter and spring. Their seeds are ejected from the ripe pods in summer, and may spread some distance.

**Spanish Heath** (an Erica) is a small, woody plant with short, soft, very narrow, crowded leaves. It produces numerous small white to rosy, tubular bell flowers in winter and early spring. Its seed is like pepper, and germinates on moist, shaded sites.

**Control:**—Small plants: Large plants:   
Dense infestation:



*Flax-leaf Broom*

### 4. Creepers and vines



The branches of creepers often produce roots on contact with soil or the deep bark of trees. Their fruits are often spread widely by birds and foxes.

The worst example is **English Ivy**. It has dark green, star-shaped leaves and forms a dense mat on the forest floor or around the trunk of trees.

**Control:**—Small plants: Large plants:   
Dense infestations:

### 5. Bulbs



The corms and bulbs of these plants multiply underground and spread from plants dumped as garden rubbish.

**Montbretias** and **Agapanthus** grow in clumps of broad, strap-like leaves. Their flower stems stand about a metre tall and grow in spring. Flowers of the Montbretia are brilliant orange.

**Control:**—Few plants: Dense infestations:

### 6. Grasses



Most local native grasses are perennials, with robust root systems, so grasses that are easy to uproot are very likely to be introduced annuals. Annual grasses severely damage bushland and cause fire danger. **Quaking Grass** is an example.

Some introduced perennial grasses are also very invasive. **Pampas Grass** is becoming a severe problem (declared noxious, Tas. & NSW).

**Control:**—Localised: Dense:   
Pampas Grass: Dig out.



*Quaking grass*

### 7. Little plants



Not all plants that look 'weedy' are weeds, just as not all weeds look weedy. For example, **Wood Forget-me-not** is a spreading, herbaceous weed with hairy stems and leaves. It produces clusters of small, 5-petalled blue flowers, mainly in spring.

**Control:**—Dense infestation: Light:



## Garden escapees of Montrose

These plants commonly grow in gardens but become weeds in bushland. Scientific names are in *italics*.

### 1. Trees and large shrubs with berries

Cherry-plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> species
Darwin's Barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Irish Strawberry	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Karamu	<i>Coprosma robusta</i>
Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>

### 2. Other trees and large shrubs

Cedar Wattle	<i>Acacia elata</i>
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>
Sallow Wattle	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>
Monterey Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>
Willow-leaved Hakea	<i>Hakea salicifolia</i>

### 3. Smaller shrubs

Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
English Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Euryops	<i>Euryops abrotanifolius</i>
Flax-leaf Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>
Montpellier Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
Spanish Heath	<i>Erica lusitanica</i>
Tagasaste, Tree lucerne	<i>Cytisus palmensis</i>

### 4. Creepers and vines

Banana passionfruit	<i>Passiflora</i> species
Blackberries	<i>Rubus</i> species
Blue Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>
Bridal Creeper, Smilax	<i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i>
Wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>

### 5. Bulbs

Agapanthus	<i>Agapanthus orientalis</i>
Angled Onion	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>
Montbretia	<i>Crocsmia X crocosmiiflora</i>
Trumpet Lily	<i>Lilium ?regale</i>
White Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>

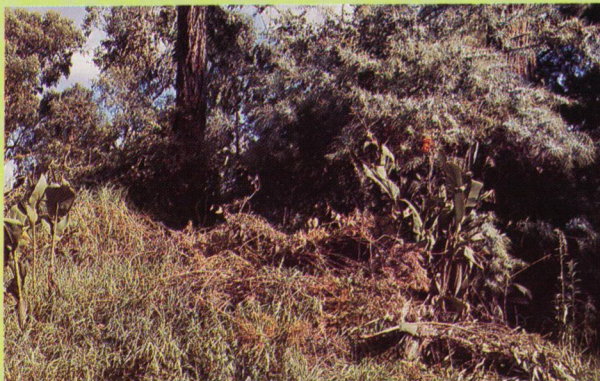
### 6. Grasses

Brown-top Bent Grass	<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>
Drain Flat-sedge	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia</i> species
Quaking Grass	<i>Briza maxima</i>
Sweet Vernal Grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
Yorkshire Fog Grass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>

### 7. Little plants

Centaury	<i>Centaureum</i> species
Wood Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>
Asparagus fern	<i>Myrsiphyllum scandens</i>

## Our bushland is not a rubbish tip!



## Dumped plants and garden waste begin the spread of Environmental Weeds!



This pamphlet is produced by  
**Montrose Environmental Group (Inc).**  
with support from  
Dept. Conservation & Environment.  
Contact MEG at P.O. Box 7, Montrose, 3765  
Phone 728-5841 or 728-3950.