



What's the problem?

Other than Britou Bush and Lantana, plants known as garden escapes account for many of the weed problems in and around Crescent Head.

These are plants that escape from gardens and spread throughout surrounding bushland, vacant lots and recreational areas. Once these plants establish they can out-compete and kill the native plants and, as a result, reduce the habitat and food sources for our native birds, mammals, reptiles etc. With Crescent Head in such a unique location (Goolawah State Park to its immediate south, Hat Head National Park to its north and other nature reserves and national parks in close proximity) this puts large natural areas and all their inhabitants in jeopardy.

The five garden escape weeds we are targeting in this campaign are weeds that you probably haven't deliberately planted, nor ones you desire in your garden. At present, they are relatively low in numbers but they are spreading and have the capacity to become a huge environmental and money consuming problem if they take hold. Many other areas along the coast are already battling large outbreaks of these weeds. We don't want this situation to occur here. Now is the time for Crescent Head to attack these weeds while we can still afford to manage the problem. Hopefully, with your help, we can eradicate them completely from our town and bush.

Be weed aware Protect Goolawah State Park



Help prevent garden escapes and other undesirable weeds from entering our natural areas

How do these weeds spread?

Bird lilies

All these plants have berries that attract birds to eat them. The seeds pass through the birds and are dropped in surrounding bushland, other gardens, parks etc. where they germinate, grow and can eventually take over. Birds can spread these weeds over long distances and into inaccessible areas, making control very difficult.

Dumped garden waste

All of these plants will easily re-grow from cuttings, roots, tubers or seeds present in garden cuttings dumped in the bush or over the back fence. If undetected, they will rapidly overrun the surrounding area and continue spreading from here. Many other weeds including aquatic weeds can also spread by these means, so please don't dump any garden waste.

About Goolawah State Park

Situated at Crescent Head on NSW's north coast, Goolawah State Park has become the 11th state park.

Covering 745ha, the park runs from Crescent Head to the Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve and features dog-friendly campgrounds, 4WD access and walking trails along its lagoon, beaches and littoral rainforest.

An area of significant environmental sensitivity the park will be used for both coastal environmental protection and public recreation.

Projects currently being undertaken to improve the park include access trail upgrades, dog and fox baiting and a weed awareness campaign asking locals to help fight intrusive weeds. Goolawah State Park forms part of the larger Maria River Regional Crown Reserve, which runs from North Port Macquarie through to Crescent Head.

For more information on visiting Goolawah State Park call 6563 1983.

How you can help – It's easy! Following these simple steps will help make the difference

1. Let us know and we'll help you

If you identify any of these weeds in your garden, on your property, in natural areas, vacant blocks, parks etc., please notify the council Weeds Officer, Goolawah Ranger or Northern Rivers CMA officer. We'll assist you with advice on the removal of these weeds from your property and even remove the weeds if you need us to. We will arrange for the control of these weeds on public land.

2. Remove undesirable plants from your garden or property and dispose of correctly

Ask your nursery or refer to programs such as the Bushland Friendly Nursery Scheme or Grow Me Instead. For recommended alternative plants you can grow visit the websites named on this brochure.

3. Don't dump

Don't dispose of any garden clippings, weeds or aquatic plants in the bush or over the back fence. Please take them to the waste transfer facility or thoroughly compost them.

4. Attend our field day

We hold field days about these weeds and demonstrate their control. Look out for dates in the local media.

Contact us

If you see a plant out and about that you think is becoming a problem, call one of the following numbers.

Department of Lands Goolawah State Park Ranger
Ph/Fax: 6563 1983
Kempsey Shire Council Weeds Officer
Ph: 6566 3200
Northern Rivers CMA
Ph: 6561 4966

References and further info

Please check out these websites for more information on being weed aware.

Bushland Friendly Nursery Scheme -www.bfns.org.au
www.weeds.crc.org.au
www.wwf.org.au
www.weeds.org.au
www.northcoastweeds.org.au
www.agric.nsw.gov.au/weeds
www.ngia.com.au/home_gardeners/invasive_plants.asp

www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au
www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au
www.lands.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Lands
Head Office
1 Prince Albert Road
Queens Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000

T 13000 LANDS
61 2 9228 6666
F 61 2 9228 4357

www.lands.nsw.gov.au





Targeted Weeds List



Asparagus Fern (*Asparagus aethiopicus*)

Photo taken by Dennis Gannaway

Scrambling shrub to 2m; small white-pale pink flowers; berries ripen bright red in winter-spring; globular sacks on roots store water but can't reproduce.



(*Asparagus plumosus*)

Photo taken by Terry Inkson

Climbing vine to 5m; green-white flowers; berries ripen blue-black in autumn-winter.

Both are perennial; many branched stems with leaves that are actually short flattened stems; immature berries are pale green 5-7mm wide; spread by birds, water or dumped garden waste. To kill, remove and dispose of the crown of the plant (where stem meets the roots) and all above ground material esp. berries.



Mickey Mouse Plant (*Ochna serrulata*)

Photo taken by Terry Inkson

Shrub to 2.5m tall; glossy dark green leaves with a finely toothed edge; yellow fragrant flowers in spring-summer developing into round black berries. Spread by birds and humans. Very difficult to kill, seek advice and assistance.



Corky Passionfruit (*Passiflora suberosa*)

A perennial climbing vine with tendrils to 6m high; globe shaped dark purple-black fruit (1-1.5cm wide); generally a 3-lobed leaf; corky older stems. Leaves, stems and green fruit are poisonous. Spread by birds, dumped garden waste & water. To kill, pull out the entire plant including roots.



Glory Lily (*Gloriosa superba*)

Perennial scrambler with stems to 4m long. Dies back each year. Flowers from spring to autumn with six yellow and orange/red petals. Leaves grow directly off stems (no stalk). Green to brown pods opening to reveal bright orange to brown seeds. Poisonous esp. roots. Re-grows from roots (rhizomes) and seeds. Spread by humans, birds & animals. Not currently noted in Crescent Head but a highly significant weed and very difficult to eradicate.

Notify Council Weed Officer immediately if seen.

How to remove these weeds

One of the reasons these plants are a problem is that they can be difficult to kill, particularly in large numbers. Hence it is much easier to remove a few plants from the garden than it is to control many escaped plants. Refer to the description of each weed to find out the best way to remove the particular plant and prevent it from reshooting. Roots and crowns can be dug out using a shovel or mattock. If you have too many plants to remove by hand, contact the council weeds officer or local weed contractors for advice on/assistance with alternative methods such as chemical control.

Correct disposal

Once the plants have been removed, please dispose of them in green waste bins, take them to the Waste Transfer Facility or thoroughly compost them at high temperatures to kill any seeds and breakdown tubers, roots and stems.

Prevent re-establishment

Keep an eye out around your garden and neighbouring areas for new seedlings or regrowing plants of the offending weeds. Remove and dispose of these immediately.

Prevent it from reshooting

Roots and crowns can be dug out using a shovel or mattock. If you have too many plants to remove by hand, contact the council weeds officer or local weed contractors for advice on/assistance with alternative methods such as chemical control.



Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) is one of the 20 Weeds of National Significance. Please help it doesn't invade our area.