

Happy Weeding

Sources:

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www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov

Thanks to Carole Bristow for plant identification.

Compiled by: Mary Lou Simpson 1.7.24

Weeding Guide for Oxley Creek Common

Glycine

Neonotonia wightii



Leaves 2-10 cm long, 1-7 cm wide. Leaves grow in clusters of three. Roots form along runners. Will strangle trees.

Flowers vary from white to purple.

Seed pods are brown and hairy and hang in clusters.

Fish weed

Einadia nutans



Native groundcover, growing to 60cm.

Leaves triangular, arrow shaped, 36 mm – 25 mm.

Creamy flowers on terminal spikes grow into red fruit. 39

Warrigal Greens

Tetragonia tetragonioides



Native groundcover. Leaves alternate, fleshy, 11cm x 7.5cm.

Prostrate, scrambling habit.

Solitary yellow flower.

Asparagus Fern

Asparagus africanus



Climber, to 10 meters. Fern-like fronds, germinating from a single seed. Spikes on stems. Forms clusters of green berries turning red.

Roots radiate from a crown, which must be removed.

Brazilian Nightshade

Solanum seaforthianum



Vine, scrambling up to 5 meters. Compound leaves, deeply lobed.

Mauve flowers with yellow centres, developing into clusters of red berries.

Common Reed

Phragmites australis



Native reed up to 3 meters. Grows near creeks.

Flowers a leathery plume.

Poison Peach

Trema tormentosa



Native shrub to 5 meters. Leaves alternate and finely serrate. 8 cm x 30 mm. Rough to touch, unlike *Celtis*, which is smooth. Leaves may droop.

Tiny white flowers and black fruit along the stem.

Chinese elm

Celtis sinensis



Tree, deciduous to 30 meters. Fruit matures to a shiny orange. Leaves alternate, glossy upper, bluntly toothed.

Deep, straight, narrow root.

Coral Berry

Rivina humilis



Woody shrub to 1 m. Leaves alternate, smooth 3 – 13 cm long. Pointed tips.

White flowers in clusters 5 – 15 cm, maturing as red berries.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Soap tree

Alphitonia excelsa



Native tree to 18 meters. Leaves alternate, 14cm x 5 cm. White below. Distinctive brownish-green veins underneath.

Trunk mottled. Clusters of tiny, 5 petalled white flowers, ripening to black berries.

Native Regrowth

Once weeds have been removed, some native plants spring to life. They have apparently just been waiting for the light.

Some of these plants are described below. The general rule of all weeding is:

If you are unsure of what it is, leave it in the ground.

The habitat problem

Balloon Cotton Bush *Gomphocarpus physocarpus*, grows prolifically in the paddocks, so it is found along the track. The pretty white clustered flowers turn into green spiky balls, which burst into silky hair tufts. This plant is home to the Wanderer Butterfly, which also uses Monkey Rope Vine, *Parsonia Straminea*.

If a plant is useful habitat and isn't smothering native growth, it can be left until there is alternate habitat. Similarly, Brown Quail can use *Einadia nutans* when it reaches 12cm high, which is an alternative to Green Panic.

Castor oil plant

Ricinus communis



Shrub to 3 meters. Stems thick and hollow.

Leaved lobed, large with toothed margins, 10 – 40 cm.

Red flowers forming spiky seed caps. Seedlings have 2 opposite leaves, as first growth. Second growth shows lobes.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Cobbler's pegs

Bidens pilosa



Annual plant to 1 m. Hollow, square stems.

Leaves pointed, toothed and soft.

Flowers cream to yellow, ripening into whorls of black seeds. Flowers all year.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Broad-leaf pepper

Schinus terebinthifolius



Shrub or tree to 4 meters.

Leaves stalkless and compound in leaflets of 3 – 9. Give a strong odour when crushed.

Small white flowers become clusters of red seeds.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Wandering Jew

Commelina benghalensis



Creeper to 30 cm high. Stems fleshy, hairy with roots at joints. Leaves alternate 2.9 cm.

Blue flowers in hairy bract. Three petals, one smaller than the other two. The **native *Commelina diffusa*** has a narrower stem, usually grows closer to the ground, and all petals are the same size.

Morning Glory

Ipomoea purpurea



Creeper. Leaves alternate 5 – 18 cm long 3.5 – 16 cm across, heart-shaped with 3 lobes.

Flowers funnel shaped, purple with pale pink centres and tubes. 5 – 10 cm long 7 – 10 cm across.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Corky passion vine

Passiflora suberosa



Climber with white, corky bark at base of older stems. One of three invasive passion vines.

Leaves alternate with 3 pointed lobes. Tendrils and flowers similar to garden passionfruit.

Flowers white. Fruit bluish-black 1 – 1.5 cm across.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Green panic

Megathyrsus maximus var pubiglumis



Clumping, long-lived grass to 1.5 m.

Leaves to 100 cm long 3.5 cm wide, growing from a central base, with purple on some stems.

Flower spikelets have a Christmas tree shape and are finely hairy. Also known as Guinea grass, *Megathyrsus maximum* var *maximum* grows to 3 m.

Crow's foot grass

Eleusine indica



Semi-upright, tufted grass with coarse stems 60 cm. Has a membrane-like structure at the base.

Seed heads may have 1 – 15 branches, radiating outwards from the same point. Found on edges of forests and roads.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Dyschoriste

Dyschoriste depressa



Herb growing to 60 cm, with squared stems. Leaves paired along stems. Seedlings have each new pair growing opposite the previous pair.

Bag this weed, as it grows from fragments of stems.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Cinderella weed

Calyptocarpus vialis



Herb with weak sprawling stems, parallel leaves, partly triangular in shape. Forms new roots as the clump grows. Yellow, single flowers grow in the upper fork of the leaves.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Rhodes grass

Chloris gayana



Upright stems, growing to 1.5 m tall. Grows from creeping stems and seeds. Young plants purple or pink at the base. Listed in the top 50 weeds.

Seed heads greenish-brown and slightly droopy.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Thickhead

Crassocephalum crepidioides



An upright plant, growing to 1.5 metres. Leaves alternate with toothed edges.

Flowerheads have no petals. Seeds topped with long silky hairs.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Horned Cucumber

Cucumis metuliferus



African vine, not obvious until the fruit form.

Mature fruit are orange/yellow, edible.

Fleabane

Conyza bonariensis



Common weed in disturbed areas. The stems are hairy and flower heads form in clusters. Reproduces by seed.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Mallow

Modiola caroliniana



A creeping perennial which roots at the nodes, forming a dense mat.

Red flowers with 5 petals.

Khaki weed

Alternanthera pungens



Found by the track. A creeping plant, which produces roots at the stem joints. The paired leaves are a different size.

The flowers harden into prickles and the plant becomes a dense mat of green prickles. Probably comes on the wheels of tyres.

(Image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Creeping Inch Plant

Callisia repens

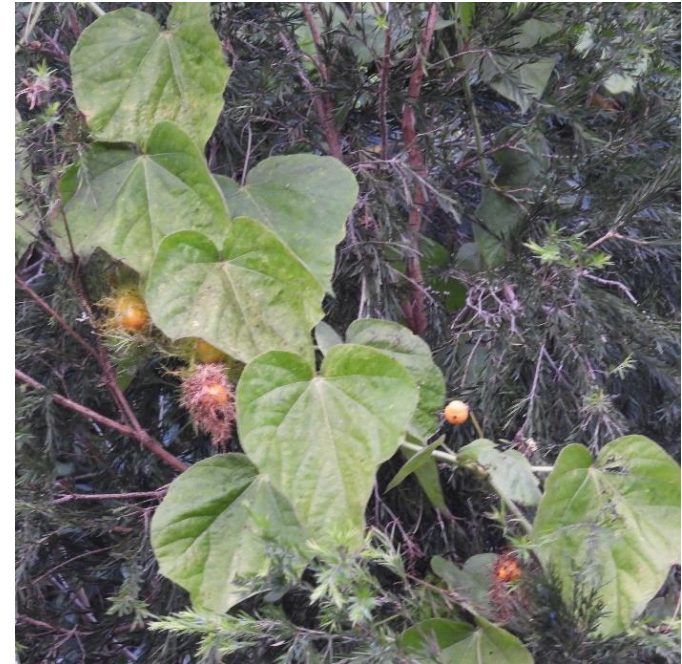


Creeping plant forming a mat of stems and roots, which develop at each node. Leaves fleshy and grows close to the ground. Resembles *Commelina benghalensis*. Stems fragile and purple.

A persistent weed, requiring careful eradication of the fine, fragile roots.

Stinking Passion Flower

Passiflora foetida



Heart-shaped leaves, often deeply indented. Sticky hairs and tendrils grow from the base of leaves.

Flowers white, pink tinged with purple. Yellow fruit forms in a sticky, hairy bract.

Wild Tobacco

Solanum mauritianum



Single stemmed shrub, growing to 3-4 m.

Large leaves, paler below. Strong smell when crushed.

Clustered purple flowers. Round fruit.

Blue Billygoat Weed

Ageratum houstonianum



A pervasive species, growing long stems, with multiple roots. It invades cleared areas, where native ground cover isn't yet established.

Leaves alternate with secondary growth at the stem. Has a distinctive smell.

Blue flowers turn into pale star-shaped seed heads.

Milkweed

Euphorbia heterophylla



Single stemmed annual, growing to 2m. Stem exudes a poisonous, milky sap.

Leaves grow in a whorl at the top of the stem.

Clusters of whitish flowers developing into rounded, greenish seed capsules.

Creeping Indigo

Indigophera spicata



Deeply rooted, dense creeper, forming a mat. Leaves hairy underneath.

Small pink flowers 4-5mm growing in clusters and developing into long narrow pods.

More easily removed after rain.

Mile-a-minute

Ipomoea cairica



Vine with extremely long runners. 5 deeply lobed leaves. Purple flowers. Loves the creek bank.

Flowers usually lilac, although this specimen was blue.

Stems root at the nodes.

Easter Cassia

Senna pendula



Shrub 3 – 4 m. The compound leaves have a faint yellow edge.

Clusters of yellow flowers appear in autumn. Circular pods grow to 10cm.

A similar native is *Senna acclinis*, which grows to 2m, with softer leaves and flat seed pods.

(Flower image: www.weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au)

Leucaena

Leucaena leucocephala



Tree to 7 m. Seedlings resemble acacias.

Long fronds of compound leaves, with no end leaf on leaflet. Fronds soft and feathery.

White pompom flowers grow on a long stalk. Brown, flat seed pods are slightly corrugated.

Introduced as a cattle fodder, it is now a weed of concern.

Lance-leaved rattlepod

Crotalaria subs lanceolata



Narrow shrub 1.5m.

Leaves trifoliate.

Seed pods rattle when shaken.

Sida species

Sida retusa and *Sida cordifolia*



Sida retusa (pictured) has indented veins.

Sida cordifolia has a little yellow flower with a pink centre.

Blackberry Nightshade

Solanum americanum



Persistent weed, usually 1m but can grow to 2.5m.

Leaves spread along green stems.

White flowers develop into green berries, which turn black.

Shallow rooted.

Ochna

Ochna serrulata



Deep rooted shrub 2m. Leaf margins finely serrated.

Pimplly bark. Yellow flowers turn red with black berries.