

A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted and having a harmful impact on the natural environment.

Common environmental weeds you may have in your garden.



Climbers and creepers can smother native trees, preventing them from getting enough light to grow, and strangling and constricting the growth of native tree trunks.

- Old man's beard*
- Japanese honeysuckle*
- Climbing asparagus*
- Madeira vine*
- Cathedral bells*
- Banana passionfruit*



Banana passionfruit



Buckthorn



Asiatic knotweed



Old man's beard

Weeds that form a dense cover on the ground prevent native seeds from germinating, preventing natural regeneration.

*Wandering willie*  
*Wild ginger*  
*Blackberry*  
*Asiatic knotweed*  
*Common ivy*



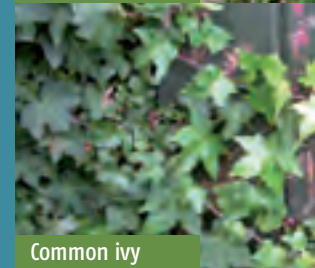
Blackberry



Holly



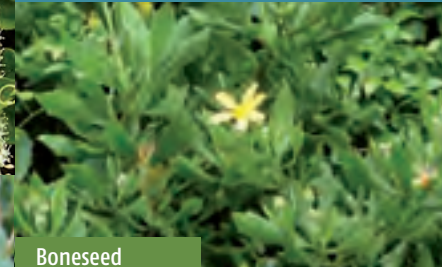
Madeira vine



Common ivy



Japanese honeysuckle



Boneseed



Wandering willie

Weed trees and shrubs establish quickly. They grow faster than native trees and can grow in very dense stands so nothing else survives.

*Holly*  
*Wattle*  
*Boneseed*  
*Sycamore*  
*Evergreen buckthorn*



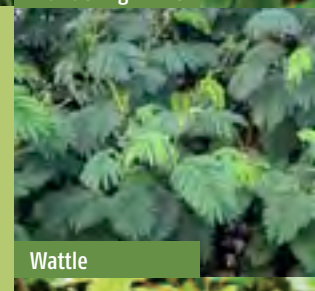
Wild ginger



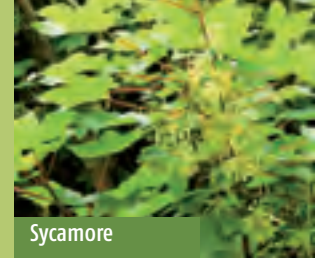
Climbing asparagus



Cathedral Bells



Wattle



Sycamore

## Did you know?



Environmental weeds are one of the main threats to the survival of many native plants.

Weeds also threaten the survival of some native animals by changing or destroying their habitat, including food and breeding sites.

75% of New Zealand's problem weeds have come from people's gardens or plants that have been dumped at our parks, beaches and streams.

Vines and creepers are some of the most invasive weeds. Around 80% of the introduced vines that grow in our gardens cause problems in the wild.

Many weeds, such as sycamore and old man's beard, have wind dispersed seeds which can travel long distances from private property into natural areas.

Weeds with berries can be spread into natural areas by birds.

Piles of garden clippings and weeds can smother regenerating native plants and harbour invasive plants or seeds.

**There are now more introduced plant species growing wild in New Zealand than native plant species and that number is growing.**

Controlling weeds costs ratepayers millions of dollars every year.

PDWCC80825



www.weedbusters.org.nz



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

## Do the right thing



Check your property and control environmental weeds.

Take garden waste to an approved landfill and use a tarpaulin to cover your load.

Never dump garden waste on public land.

Make compost but be careful as some weeds will survive if composted.

Choose garden plants carefully. Most are not invasive.

Be extra careful if you live near a reserve or natural area.

Help birds spread native seeds not weeds. Removing weeds and planting natives mean birds scatter seeds that help our forests.

Join a local community group and help rid your local reserve of weeds.

Get advice and information from Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council or the Department of Conservation.

*You can help. With so many weeds out there everyone needs to lend a hand.*



# DO YOUR BIT TO STOP WEEDS FROM RUINING OUR ENVIRONMENT.



## STOP weeds • spreading smothering • suffocating



Absolutely

POSITIVELY

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Wellington